THE PALACE OF SILENCE.

BRITISH MUSEUM

THE PALACE OF SILENCE:

A PHILOSOPHIC TALE.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH
BY A LADY.

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LOSING my ſenſes at that dreadful inſtant, I felt not the wofulneſs of my ſituation: but this lethargy ſoon leaving me, I recovered my ſenſes by little and little, and remembered what had happened. Then

it was that I experienced all the horror which a lingering, dark, and certain death can inſpire.

I trembled when I reflected on the place I was in. In the midſt of impenetrable darkneſs, ſurrounded by gulphs, into which the leaſt motion would have plunged me, I durſt not open my eyes, through fear of being convinced of the reality of ſo frightful a picture.

Alas! cried I, by what fatal miracle am I permitted ſtill to breathe? The gods purſue me: what ſuccour can I expect in this deep cavern, to which their vengeance abandons me? What of

life

life remains is but additional puniſhment.

Struck with this idea, I determined to kill myſelf. I caſually turned my head, to draw my poniard, which was entangled in my cloaths by my fall; when this ſlight effort drew my eyes towards a feeble ray of light which I perceived very near me. A confuſed ſenſation, between hope and joy, led me towards it: but I walked with caution; for it appeared as if I had, at each ſtep, a freſh precipice to dread. I ſtretched out my hand, to diſcover whether the light proceeded from a rock, and my hand found no reſiſtance.

I had ſcarce touched what I ſuppoſed to be the center of a mountain, when a door opened, and diſcovered a ſpacious and ſuperb garden, terminated by an edifice rather elegant than large, the ornaments of which appeared admirably planned.

It is impoſſible for me to expreſs my ſurprize at the unexpected ſight of ſo many agreeable objects. I remained immoveable. My ſoul paſſed ſo rapidly from terror to ſecurity, that the tranſition appeared as a dream.

The remembrance of the oracle of Jupiter explained this happy

event. I conceived that the gods had at laſt brought me, by a myſterious way, to the Palace of Silence. I fell proſtrate, to return them thanks. I was afterwards deſirous of contemplating the cavern from whence I came out, and the path which led me there, but ſaw no paſſage but that which communicated with the garden. This was a grotto of ſhells, contrived, in appearance, for the enjoyment of a delicious coolneſs.

I advanced towards the palace, eagerly caſting my eyes around, and every thing produced ſubjects for aſtoniſhment. I recollected that it was night when I went to

join Protas; but, at the palace of Harpocrates, I found a ſerene ſky, which was illumined by a ſoft light, ſuch as muſt attend the waking of Venus when the Graces inform her of the riſing of Aurora; or ſuch as we imagine in the Elyſian Fields. The earth was adorned with a profuſion of excellent fruits and flowers. I ventured to gather ſome of the fruit; which I ate with greedineſs, and thereby ſoon recovered the ſtrength I had loſt.

I arrived at the palace, whilſt the door of the portico ſtill opened to my view. The firſt object that engaged my attention was a ſtatue,

the

the ſize of life, which repreſented a man holding his finger on his mouth. From the beauty of the ſtatue, as well as from its attitude, I had no doubt but it was the image of the god who was to be the guardian and inſtructor of my fate.

I proſtrated myſelf a ſecond time; but, when I would have articulated what gratitude inſpired, I found myſelf incapable of utterance. Expreſſion died on my lips, whilſt my heart was agitated with what I felt.

This new prodigy ſurprized and troubled me. What! I cried, was

I not ſufficiently miſerable? Are complaints as offenſive to the gods as they are to mortals? But they read the heart: to what purpoſe then ſhall lamentations beat the air? They doubtleſs tell me that they reject my prayers, when they refuſe to hear them. Are they, alas! inexorable? With what pain ſhould I ſee the vileſt ſubject of Clidemus bereft of ſpeech, when proſtrate before me, to aſk me a favour!

At theſe words, or rather at theſe thoughts, I remarked a tablet in the hand of Harpocrates, who protected me notwithſtanding my murmurs, in which I read as follows:

"*Submit*

" *Submit to my power*; *I am the*
" *God of Silence. Guard yourſelf*
" *from deſpair, and merit my cle-*
" *mency.*"

I ceaſed to regret any more the loſs of my ſpeech, which became really uſeleſs in a place where, according to all appearance, I found myſelf quite alone. I went over the apartments of this palace. In it all the riches of the earth were diſplayed with the moſt ingenious art. Excellent paintings adorned the ceilings; all the ſubjects of which were either hiſtorical or moral. Several repreſented the chaſtiſements which the gods had beſtowed

beſtowed on certain raſh mortals.

There Minerva breathes furious revenge into the hearts of Herſe and Agraulos. One could fancy he ſtill ſaw thoſe guilty ſiſters precipitating to the bottom of the waves. Here Aſcalaphus, the victim of the juſt anger of Proſerpine, under the figure of a melancholy owl, is deſtined to languiſh in darkneſs, the ſubject of horror. In another place, young Cyane is ſeen to change into a fountain, the inſtant ſhe dares to utter Pluto's name. In a word, the danger of not knowing how to be ſilent was every where diſplayed; and Harpocrates

pocrates ſeemed to delight in ſhewing his diſpleaſure againſt ſuch as violate his rites.

All that had happened to me, from the time I imagined myſelf periſhing, had as it were tranſported me beyond myſelf. The faculties of my ſoul were ſcarcely ſufficient to contemplate the wonders which ſtruck my ſenſes. In a tumult of thoughts and ſenſations, which my preſent ſituation produced, it was difficult for me to know myſelf. I was willing, however, to fix my thoughts, by driving away the objects which made them wander. I endeavoured to employ them on Mezronima;

nima; but the remembrance of her became more indifferent. I did not find myſelf wounded by the torment of abſence, which I had formerly deemed inſupportable. I diſcovered in myſelf a kind of inſenſibility, in reſpect to her, which was unknown to me before. I ſtill told my heart that it adored her; but my heart re-echoed it not.

I threw myſelf on a ſopha, to contemplate the change which was wrought in me. Have I then drank the water of Lethe? ſaid I within myſelf. Why is the moſt lively paſſion ſo ſuddenly extinguiſhed? In vain I rouſe the ardour

dour with which I burned for Mezronima; that ardour is felt no more. I ſhall perhaps never ſee that beauty again, who was once ſo dear to me; and I cannot beſtow on her a ſigh! Is the Palace of Silence an aſylum againſt love? Shall I be given up to this tranquil ſtate, which borders on ſtupidity? Who will ſecure me from a tedious languor in this retreat, where the mind can hold no converſe, and the heart loſes its emotions and deſires? What! ſhall I ceaſe to love? that were almoſt ceaſing to live.

In the midſt of theſe enquiries, ſleep interrupted my reflections, and

and light dreams ſucceeded. I fancied myſelf tranſported into a grove of myrtles and jeſſamine. In the farther part I perceived a bed of turf, on which Pſyche was ſeated, negligently leaning on the boſom of one of the Graces. The other two ſtrewed leaves of roſes and violets around her. Modeſty aſſayed to adjuſt a veil, which was perhaps troubleſome to Pſyche herſelf, whilſt Cupid at her feet laboured to withdraw it. Pleaſure prevailed, and immediately bound the two lovers with a garland of flowers, which the Sports had been gathering.

What a ſcene for a ſuſceptible mind! A delicious commotion took

took poſſeſſion of my ſenſes. Hurried by an involuntary tranſport, I exclaimed, "Charming god! "will you always refuſe your fa- "vours to a mortal the moſt faith- "ful to your worſhip, the moſt "ſubmiſſive to your laws, and "the moſt affected by your myſ- "teries? Reſtore me, at leaſt, "the flame by which I was con- "ſumed: let your preſence for "ever kindle it in my breaſt. "The love we feel is ſtill more "precious than that which we "inſpire."

Cupid ſmiled, and offered me his hand, "Iphis, ſaid he, you "know me not; yet it is I

"who

" who watch over your fate. I
" have read in your heart that it
" is worthy I ſhould poſſeſs it; and
" you ought not to be reproached
" with its errors. Under my ar-
" rows, and with my arms, plea-
" ſure has occaſioned them; which
" receives at Cnidus the incenſe
" which is ſuppoſed to be offered
" to me. It is thus I am revenged
" of the ungrateful Dorians, and
" the rigours of my mother on ac-
" count of my beloved Pſyche."

" Alas! (replied I, with ſighs,)
" you inſtruct me on the the ſub-
" ject of my illuſion: yes, the
" blunted arrows of pleaſure have
" only grazed my heart, and the

" wound

" wound that was given was no
" work of yours!"

" Let experience teach you,
" continued Cupid, that, when
" Pleaſure would reign without
" me, it leads aſtray and intoxi-
" cates for a time, but cannot diſ-
" penſe genuine and laſting hap-
" pineſs. It ſhould follow in my
" train. Provoked as I am that
" it ſhould profane my name by
" uſurping it, I deliver you from
" its ſorceries; in which Jupiter
" aſſiſts me. We have opened to
" you the palace of Harpocrates.
" You will be there convinced
" that I aſſemble and protect vir-
" tuous hearts alone." At theſe
words,

words, a cloud ſurrounded me; and I awoke.

So regular a dream appeared to me a certain preſage of the protection of the gods, and I reſigned myſelf to their care. I went down into the gardens; and, having walked there ſome time, diſcovered at a diſtance the grove where Cupid had converſed with me in my dream. I went up to it, and had no doubt of its being the ſame when I found the baſket of flowers which I had ſeen in the hands of Aglaia, whilſt another ſtrewed the bed of turf, which was ſtill covered with them. I thought it preſumption to enter a place conſecrated

ſecrated by the preſence of Cupid, but a ſecret impulſe forced me to go over it.

It terminated a labyrinth, into which I went, without knowing the other way out. It led me to a pavilion ſeparated from the palace. I admired the beauties of it, and in going out perceived a little marble ſtair-caſe, cut in the thickeſt part of a wall.

Being always guided by an inſtinct which cannot be deſcribed, I was unable to reſiſt the deſire of ſeeing every thing. I found no difficulty in going up at firſt, by the aſſiſtance of the light from the entrance;

entrance; but it ſoon became ſo feeble, that I was obliged to ſupport myſelf, to avoid a dangerous fall. A ſlight emotion of fear ſeized me; but I had gone ſo far, that there was equal danger in retreating. The total darkneſs I had experienced for ſome time made me ſtumble at every ſtep: at laſt I reached the top of the pavilion.

A very low door opened of itſelf, and gave me light; but I know not whence it proceeded. I entered a cloſet, of an oval form, lined all over with ſteel, finely poliſhed, through which it was impoſſible for a ray of light to penetrate, and reſted myſelf on a couch,

couch, which was placed in the middle of the cloſet.

Nothing more curious offering itſelf to my notice, I regretted the pains I had taken. Alas! ſaid I to myſelf, all the wonders which aſtoniſh me here prove the power of the gods; but when will they afford me inſtances of their pity? When will they reſtore me to my ſorrowful family? Clidemus laments, without doubt, the loſs of a ſon, whom he has no hopes of ſeeing again, and perhaps reproaches himſelf . . . What was my aſtoniſhment! I had ſcarcely conceived this idea, when I ſaw an exact picture of my fa-

ther's apartment before me. He was ſitting, with his head leaning on one hand, and wiping away ſome tears that fell with the other. I ruſhed forward, with tranſport, to throw myſelf at his feet; but he ſeemed to recede from me, without diſappearing; and my arms, which I ſtretched out to him, met only the walls of ſteel, on which the dear image was traced.

Recovering from my illuſion, I felt that this illuſion was a favour from the gods; and, being willing to enjoy it longer, returned to my former ſeat. I conſidered Clidemus with attention. He appeared

peared to be agitated with violent grief. I ſuppoſed myſelf the object of it, and that my mother was probably in equal affliction.

As ſoon as ſhe came into my mind, I thought I ſaw her enter, ſupported by Menocles. Deſpair was painted in her face. On her appearance, Clidemus endeavoured to conceal his grief. He ſpoke with an air of firmneſs; and, by a new effect of the power and goodneſs of the gods, I clearly underſtood, from the motion of his lips, that he ſaid all that courage and reaſon could ſuggeſt, when oppoſed to misfortune.

" Our ſorrow, ſaid he, will
" not reſtore us Iphis: let us
" endeavour to avenge him, if he
" has periſhed by the treachery
" of Protas; or elſe ſtrive to
" appeaſe the gods, if, as we are
" told, he has fallen a victim to
" their anger. On this we muſt
" beſtow our enquiries: and you
" may be aſſured, madam, that
" I will employ all my care in
" ſearching out the fatal truth. I
" ſhall ſummon my council, to
" tell me the reſult of the ſtrict
" reſearches I have ordered to be
" made. Wipe away your una-
" vailing tears; which only add
" to my miſery, by ſhewing me
" yours."

My

My mother, redoubling her ſighs, repeated ſome circumſtances of my pretended death, which ſhe had been juſt informed of. She gave orders to lay open the ground at the place where I was ſwallowed up, in order to find my lifeleſs remains, and render them the laſt offices; but there appeared no traces of the ſhock the earth had received, when it opened under me: its ſurface was even covered with verdure; and, though they dug to the depth of forty feet, no diſcovery was made, either of my cloaths or body.

My mother dwelt, with ſorrow, on this prodigy, and her ſuſpicions

of Protas increaſed. All he had related was, in her opinion, nothing but a fable, to conceal his crime. After a converſation, during which Menocles was buried in deep meditation, the queen retired, and left him alone with Clidemus.

"I dare not believe, ſaid he "then to my father, that Protas "has ſtretched out a ſacrilegious "hand againſt his prince. In the "number of the witneſſes to this "dreadful event, thoſe, who con-"feſſed that this nocturnal aſſem-"bly was a conſpiracy, would "likewiſe have owned that it "ended in aſſaſſination. They

"do

" do not the leſs betray their chief,
" by concealing one of his crimes,
" whilſt they accuſe him of ano-
" ther, which, if proved, will e-
" qually condemn him."

" But, interrupted my father,
" how are we to conceive that
" Iphis alone ſhould periſh in this
" terrible opening of the earth;
" and that no one in Cnidus, or
" its environs, ſaw the volcano
" burn, or heard its noiſe, or felt
" the ſubterraneous commotion?
" Why is ſo ſurpriſing an event
" atteſted by only Protas, young
" Soſtrates, and a few of their
" train? With what deſign did
" they draw my ſon into that by-

"place, without any of his com-
"mon attendants? Ah! Meno-
"cles, this is an alarming myſ-
"tery, in which I am loſt."

"My lord, replied Menocles,
"I have taken care that the pro-
"ceedings of Protas ſhould be
"carefully watched. The neceſ-
"ſity of diſcovering what paſſes
"requires that we ſhould not ſe-
"cure his accuſers: they will
"give me intelligence of the new
"meaſures he is about to take.
"Protas would not have mur-
"dered his prince without ſome
"view: we ſhall ſoon find out
"what advantages he promiſes
"himſelf from it. He will not

"remain

" remain a peaceable ſubject if
" he is guilty of this murder. I
" am inclined to believe he had no
" ſhare in it. It is more proba-
" ble that, through a falſe zeal
" for Iphis, he inſpired him with
" diſobedience and rebellion: that
" they made ſecret and violent re-
" ſolutions together: that the im-
" petuous ſon of Stratim imagi-
" ned a revolution would turn to
" his account: and that heaven
" fruſtrated their airy ſchemes.
" The ambition of Protas needed
" the ſanction of your ſon, and
" not his death. We muſt watch
" his conduct. Make no ſtir, to
" alarm him and put him on his
" guard: his ſecurity will either

" ruin or juſtify him. Let the
" care of obſerving his moſt tri-
" fling actions devolve on me,
" my lord: my concern and fide-
" lity inſure my vigilance."

At that inſtant the miniſters and nobles of the council arrived; but I could diſtinguiſh no more by the motion of their lips. The miracle ceaſed when ſecrets of ſtate and maxims of government came in queſtion.

I was both affected and ſurpriſed at all I learnt. I was ſhocked becauſe I could not releaſe Clidemus and my mother from the melancholy error they were in on my account,

account, and trembled leſt my faithful confident ſhould be ſacrificed to the falſe appearances which his enemies availed themſelves of. He was certainly not guilty in my eyes; but, on the contrary, had expoſed himſelf in my favour. Could I ſee him puniſhed for his attachment to Mezronima and myſelf? What other view had he, in favouring my paſſion, than that of ſerving his friend and the ſtate? Was it betraying the royal authority, to oppoſe the abuſes which men had daringly made of it?

Theſe reflexions made the ſcene of the council vaniſh, and I with pleaſure ſaw another ſucceed,

which represented to me Mezronima and Protas, "I do not "comprehend you, said she to "him; you reproach me with "the little instance of pity I shewed "for Iphis, as an injury offered "to your love. Can you doubt "my affection after all you have "required of me? If ambition "and inconstancy had effaced you "from my heart, the hand of I-"phis would have placed me on "the throne; to which I might "have been raised without dan-"ger or trouble."

"If you are faithful to me, re-"plied he, what will you lose by "preferring me? will you not

" reign over the Dorians? My
" love ſhall procure the throne on
" which I am going to ſeat you:
" the love of Iphis offered you
" only a ſhare of it."

" Have I then, returned ſhe,
" done you an ill office by flatter-
" ing his hopes, and feigning to
" be moved by his paſſion, with
" an artful intention of making
" him rebel?"

" Doubtleſs you have, inter-
" rupted Protas. Had I not rea-
" ſon to be jealous of the time em-
" ployed in ſeducing him? was
" it not affording him an oppor-
" tunity to win your affections?

" I have

" I have not always looked on his " aſſiduities with calmneſs, and I " have often lamented that the o- " racle I dictated to the high- " prieſt of Jupiter was not given."

" I do not know, replied ſhe, " whether it would have been " attended with ſucceſs." " Yes, " anſwered Protas; I know what " a deference Clidemus has for " the commands of the gods: he " would have conſented to your " marriage without heſitation. " His ready conſent, after the " clamour he has made againſt it, " would eaſily have perſuaded the " people that he had poiſoned the " nuptial cup; and this attempt

" on

" on your life would have been " immediately puniſhed by the " loſs of his own. I could have " inſured a hundred poniards to " diſpatch him."

" Would any one have believed, " objected Mezronima, that, in " order to deſtroy me, he would " have killed his ſon?" " A " Greek may be ſuſpected of ſuch " barbarity, replied he. A na- " tural defect is a ſufficient rea- " ſon, in Sparta, for a father to " kill his child, without any other " offence. The world would " have thought that Clidemus, " who is abſolute and inexora- " rable, rather choſe to put his

" ſon

" ſon to death, than to raiſe you
" to the throne; and that, in or-
" der to keep the Dorians un-
" der the dominion of Greece,
" he preferred putting the ſcepter
" into the hands of a Spartan to
" placing it in yours. Beſides,
" would the people have enqui-
" red into the motives, if, at the
" inſtant that Iphis offered you
" the cup after having drank of
" it, the high-prieſt had, with
" the tone of inſpiration, ſtopt
" the ceremony, revealed the
" crime, and pointed out and de-
" livered the criminal up to the
" fury of the people, who are al-
" ways credulous and fanatical?
" Do you think that the people
" would

" would not have avenged you,
" at the voice of Jupiter's minif-
" ter?"

" But, replied Mezronima, why
" was ſo much preparation neceſ-
" ſary, to kill the one and poiſon
" the other? could it not be un-
" dertaken privately." " No,
" ſaid Protas; it was requiſite
" that Clidemus ſhould die deteſ-
" ted by the Cnidians."

" After all, added Mezronima,
" would this undertaking (which
" never appeared to me either
" ſure or well-concerted) have
" left you any other reſource than
" the impetuous temper of Iphis?

" His

" His name and mine have open-
" ed to you the road to royalty.
" Could you have ſtirred up the
" Cnidians, whilſt Iphis lived,
" unleſs he had put himſelf at the
" head of your party? Had you
" any other means of driving out
" thoſe proud Greeks, who have
" enſlaved the Dorians by fear and
" favours, than that of arming
" them againſt themſelves? My
" eyes conducted Iphis to death
" when they conducted him to
" the temple of Hymen. I would
" deliver him up to you as ſoon
" as Clidemus was thought to be
" ſlain. In the tumult of ſedition
" the father would have been ea-
" ſily ſacrificed to the ſecurity of
" his

" his ſon; and we ſhould then
" have killed the ſon for ours.
" We would have contrived to fix
" the ſuſpicion on Menocles. At
" length, after having recovered
" the crown of my anceſtors, I
" ſhould have placed it on your
" head. Was this not loving you?"

" I know, interrupted Protas,
" what you have done and what
" you intended to do for me; but
" the paſſion and youth of Iphis,
" I muſt own, gave me ſome un-
" eaſineſs. Why did you urge
" him to fly, when the king
" would have forced him to mar-
" ry Hermoclea? By taking this
" courſe he would have eſcaped

" from

" from our hands. Was it not
" too much to compaſſionate his
" fate, and imprudently riſque
" the event of ſo many artifices?"

" Not in the leaſt, replied ſhe:
" we riſqued nothing: his death
" and his flight equally ſerved our
" purpoſe. The Dorians, actua-
" ted by the ſprings we had put
" in motion, were at that time
" afraid of opening their gates to
" Ariſtagoras; and Iphis, who
" oppoſed it, became dear to this
" country. The perſecution that
" exiled him would have inflamed
" the minds of the people in his
" favour; and, under the pre-
" tence of ſerving his intereſt and

" that

" that of the ſtate, we ſhould
" have armed our friends with as
" much eaſe as if he had been
" preſent. Clidemus was conſi-
" dered as a tyrant, who ſold our
" liberties, or at leaſt did not
" know how to defend them:
" we ſhould have expelled him
" from the throne without trou-
" ble, or even the appearance of
" guilt. You would have been
" ſeated in his place; whilſt his
" ſon, a deſerted fugitive, would
" have periſhed in a foreign coun-
" try, without my ſhedding his
" blood; or, if he returned, the
" ſcepter would be ſecured to you,
" and not return to him. My
" plan was more prudent and

" ſure

" ſure than yours; and an un-
" reaſonable jealouſy would not
" ſuffer you to approve it: you
" diſcovered in it only a ſlight
" compaſſion for an unfortunate
" prince who loved me; an al-
" lowable compaſſion, which ſa-
" ved his life, and did not hazard
" the leaſt advantage."

" Be it as it may, ſaid Protas,
" fortune has done more for us
" than we had reaſon to expect:
" Iphis is no more; and all that
" his death leaves me to regret is,
" the glorious certainty, he car-
" ried with him to the grave, of
" having enjoyed your favour: I
" would undeceive him, if poſſi-
" ble."

" Do

" Do not envy him his error,
" my dear Protas, (interrupted
" Mezronima, preſſing his hand,)
" when you enjoy the reality.
" Make allowance for a diſſimu-
" lation preſcribed by yourſelf,
" which coſt me ſome pains."

" In fact, (added the traitor,
" ſmiling,) he is ſufficiently pu-
" niſhed for his preſumption, if
" what happens here is known
" in Elyſium: he will heartily
" upbraid himſelf with the opi-
" nion he entertained of his own
" merit. I never knew ſo vain
" a man; and it is owing only to
" my talent of heaping encomi-

" ums

" ums on him, that I received
" the favours he thought his
" friendſhip beſtowed. The ri-
" gid Menocles loſt his eſteem by
" a ſincerity which was not al-
" ways pleaſing. Self-love en-
" deavours to conceal our faults
" from the eyes of others, and
" ſometimes corrects them; but
" pride aims to hide them from
" ourſelves, and exaſperates us a-
" gainſt thoſe who point them
" out.

" Being well perſuaded of this
" maxim, and more pliant and
" dexterous than Menocles, I diſ-
" covered as many virtues and ex-
" cellences, in Iphis, as he had

" favours

" favours to beſtow, and never
" experienced a refuſal. But let
" us ſay no more of him, and
" forget even his memory.

" The king and queen, in a
" conſternation at the loſs of him,
" do not think of obſerving us:
" my friends continue in the ſame
" diſpoſitions: the people, whoſe
" hopes centered in Iphis, throw
" themſelves on my protection:
" the troops at my diſpoſal have
" ſworn to obey me: the tempeſt
" which has diſperſed the fleet of
" Coös and Claros; the diviſion
" that prevails among the chiefs;
" the ſtormy ſeaſon which ap-
" proaches; all conſpire to pour

"ſecurity into the breaſt of the "weak Clidemus; and, whilſt he "ſlumbers in his imprudence, the "happy Protas is going to poſ- "ſeſs and crown her he adores."

Mezronima ſometimes inter- rupted him with applauſes, ſmiles, and glances, properly introduced: "But do you take care, ſaid ſhe, "to ſecure your ſiſter from the "firſt flames of ſedition?"

"My ſiſter, replied he, keeps "my operations ſtill in ſuſpence. "I am deſirous that ſhe ſhould "be ſheltered from the fury of the "ſoldiery and the vengeance of "Clidemus, at a diſtance from the "palace.

" palace. I ſhall commiſſion Ax-
" aris to aſk for her, under ſome
" pretence, and they ſhall never
" make their appearance again
" but at your court."

" But what, if ſhe be denied,
" ſtill urged Mezronima, through
" ſome ſuſpicion which may ſud-
" denly ariſe; and detained as an
" hoſtage?"

" I then make a ſacrifice of
" her, interrupted Protas. Her
" attachment to the royal houſe
" will ſilence the voice of nature
" in my heart: beſides, her pre-
" ſervation does not balance againſt
" the gifts which fortune offers
" me."

After ſome tender converſation, which ſucceeded the detail of the conſpiracy, Protas went out; and the perfidious Mezronima, at parting with him, broke my picture with the moſt inſulting diſdain.

The aſtoniſhment and horror I was ſtruck with, at this fatal converſation, ſcarce left me the uſe of my ſenſes. I more than once forgot the obſtacles which ſheltered theſe monſters from my fury, and ruſhed, with the poniard in my hand, to kill them.

The danger to which Clidemus and my mother were expoſed; the

the fear that Menocles would be informed of it when too late; the impoſſibility of my aſſiſting them; ſhame for having loved two ſo equally odious and contemptible; remorſe for having ſacrificed the moſt ſacred duties to a paſſion diſgraced by the choice of its object; indignation for having been ſo long the ſport of miſcreants; the humiliating diſcovery of the ſource of my errors and misfortunes, in my fooliſh vanity; regret for having undervalued the advice of Menocles; in fine, all that a ſoul, which loves virtue, can ſuffer after having betrayed it; every torment which attends deſpair when neceſſity diſarms it; — all this I felt,

whilſt Mezronima and Protas unfolded the dark ſecrets of their hearts.

Love! cried I within myſelf, it is too true that it was not your arrows which ſubdued me: the Furies certainly ſhook their torches over me, when I ſaw the dangerous beauty which captivated me, and I caught the ſparks from thence, inſtead of your fires. Pardon my error. I went in ſearch of you: I was born to live under your dominion. Continue your protection to a hapleſs wretch, reſcued by your aid, and indebted to you for the remains of his innocence! —

This ſhort invocation moved the god whom I addreſſed; and I found myſelf more calm: a voice ſeemed inwardly to encourage me.

I was convinced, by many inſtances, that thinking of a perſon was ſufficient to make his image appear before me, as well as too much intereſted in diſcovering the conduct of thoſe I was connected with, not to introduce them on the ſcene. Let me ſee, ſaid I, if Theone will make me bluſh for my prepoſſeſſion in her favour; and let Harpocrates vouchſafe to reveal to whom I owe my hatred, and to whom my love.

At that inſtant I ſaw her before me, walking haſtily in her apartment. The diſorder of her dreſs; the paleneſs of her face, which was bathed in tears; her hands and eyes every moment lifted up to heaven; and her irregular and precipitate motions, expreſſed the tumult of her mind, and cauſed ſome emotion in mine. I was at a loſs to what cauſe I ſhould attribute the extreme grief, of which ſhe gave ſuch genuine and affecting inſtances; and afraid to be informed. What a pain was reſerved for me, if it ſhould prove criminal or fatal! it would be almoſt alike afflicting, whether Theone be unfortunate or guilty.

I was

I was tempted to drop this enquiry, and to employ my attention on other objects, when the appearance of Menocles prevented it. I wiſhed to know if Theone loved him; for what they had both of them told me was not ſatisfactory. Something more than common curioſity urged me to procure farther information, and my heart beat within me when I ſaw her receive him with open arms.

"Ah! Menocles, cried ſhe, "you know not yet all my tor-"ments: do not forſake me; "but adminiſter conſolation."

" You alarm me, replied he. " What misfortune, beſides the " loſs of Iphis, calls forth your " tears? If the ſacrifice of my " life be neceſſary to wipe them " away, believe me, it will coſt " me leſs than the ſacrifice of my " love."

" Speak no more about your " love, interrupted Theone: you " have promiſed me to triumph " over it, and I depend on that " exertion of your virtue. My " confidence in you merits it. Be " my friend; for I need one."

" Ah! madam, in that cha- " racter, which is dear to me, " what

" what can I" . . . " Save,
" again interrupted ſhe, one who
" is united to me by the ties of
" blood, which I may perhaps
" occaſion to be ſpilt. Alas!
" what fate attends me! What
" new horrors are added to my
" laſt moments! Torn as I am
" by a fatal paſſion; deprived of
" every hope; neither deſiring
" nor ſeeking aught but death,
" ſince death alone can reſtore me
" what I love; — could I think
" new evils were in ſtore? and
" that" . . .

" Explain yourſelf, Theone,
" replied Menocles: I cannot
" bear to ſee you ſo diſtreſſed.

" You will offend me by a cau-
" tious reſerve."

" Explain myſelf! ſaid ſhe,
" heſitating: alas! I doubtleſs
" muſt: but the weight of my
" duty oppreſſes me. I cannot
" reſolve to be guided by it, or
" to betray it, without horror.
" Know then . . . (O ye
" gods! what am I about to re-
" veal!) — Know that my bro-
" ther, that ungrateful favourite
" of the moſt amiable prince;
" my whole family, on which he
" ſhowers down his favours; and
" the deteſtable Mezronima, ſo
" paſſionately beloved by Iphis,
" are at this time in a conſpiracy
" againſt

" againſt Clidemus and the ſtate,
" and ſhameleſſly ſet at naught
" the obligations of honour and
" gratitude. What! are you not
" ſtruck with horror?" . .

" I will confeſs to you, ma-
" dam, replied Menocles, that
" Protas has been already ſuſpect-
" ed; but I have concealed from
" your ſenſibility the intelligence
" I have received. Some of the
" conſpirators themſelves have be-
" trayed him, and are now watch-
" ing him, in order to give me
" farther accounts. I expected
" them this morning; but they
" have forfeited their word, and
" I have ſent for them, to know" . .

" Ah!

" Ah! Menocles, exclaimed " Theone, you will never ſee " them more: I am the only one " that can henceforth give you " any information. Time urges: " attend to what I am going to tell " you.

" The day after the departure " of Ariſtagoras's ambaſſador, it " is intended that Protas, at the " head of his troops, ſhall ſur- " round the palace, and there " murder the king, yourſelf, and " all thoſe who are faithful to " him. Young Soſtrates has ſworn " to ſpare no one but his father. " The reſt of the conſpirators will

" ſeize

" ſeize the gates of Cnidus: Stra-
" tim will deliver up the citadel:
" the prieſts of Jupiter and Hy-
" men are to conſecrate the re-
" bellion, by approving it before
" the people: they are to aſſem-
" ble in the temple of Venus;
" and, as ſoon as the throne is
" ſtained with the blood of Clide-
" mus, Mezronima and Protas
" will be ſeated thereon, amidſt
" the acclamations of a croud of
" wicked miniſters and terrified or
" deluded citizens.

" A ſlave of my brother's, who
" is acquainted with this horrible
" ſecret, has lately diſcloſed it to
" one of my women, with a view
" to

" to gain her favour. Some of
" their accomplices, who had in-
" curred their ſuſpicions, were this
" morning put to death, by the
" orders of young Soſtrates; and
" they are probably the perſons
" you depended on. This, Me-
" nocles, is the horrible plot which
" I had to tell you of, and the
" cauſe of that tumult which agi-
" tates my mind. I cannot con-
" ceal the ſhocking ſecret, with-
" out delivering up the king and
" queen, and all thoſe who are
" marked out for their virtues, in-
" to the hands of aſſaſſins: but,
" to ſave them, am I myſelf go-
" ing to ſurrender my whole fa-
" mily to puniſhment? . . .

" It

" It matters not what are the ties
" which attach me to the guilty:
" I will not ſuffer ſo many inno-
" cents to periſh. For the firſt
" time, perhaps, the voice of du-
" ty ſtifles that of nature. Come
" and conduct me to the feet of
" Clidemus. I will go and ſpeak
" to him, and die, if his clemency
" does not impoſe ſilence on his
" juſtice."

" I conceive, madam, replied
" Menocles, how cruel your caſe
" muſt be, to have the taſk of
" diſconcerting ſuch ſchemes in
" your own family: but your diſ-
" tinguiſhed reaſon inſpires and
" directs you how to act with pro-
" priety.

" priety. I admire the reſolu-
" tion with which you are ani-
" mated. The blood of kings is
" ſacred; and the intereſt of the
" ſtate is of the firſt importance:
" the defence of either cannot be
" purchaſed at too dear a rate.
" The generoſity of your pro-
" ceedings is too obvious to be
" overlooked; and I may venture
" to aſſure you that Clidemus will
" ſpare the criminals whoſe ſiſter
" and daughter prove his deliver-
" er."

" Menocles, replied Theone,
" this hope is not ſufficient: you
" muſt ſecond me. You alone
" can protect Stratim and Protas:
" inſure

"insure me that, and I consent.
"But let them live, and" . .

"Rest assured, said Menocles,
"that your intercessions alone will
"procure that favour from the
"king: but, if the exertion of my
"zeal be necessary, Menocles will
"convince you that he knows bet-
"ter how to love than hate."

"Alas! exclaimed Theone ten-
"derly, the death of Iphis is the
"fatal æra of these odious pro-
"jects: if he had been still alive,
"they had never been formed.
"Would the people have feared
"his government, or preferred my
"brother before him? Would
"they

"they dare ſhake off the royal "authority whilſt he was the ſup- "port of it? The Dorians loved "him too well to revolt."

"What an error you are under, "madam! replied Menocles: you "know not that that prince him- "ſelf kindled the firſt ſparks of "this flame. Yes, madam, (ad- "ded he, ſeeing ſome marks of "ſurprize in Theone,) Iphis took "up arms, and ſtirred up the "people, by the advice of your "brother, to ſhake off the autho- "rity of Clidemus, and ſecure "the hand of Mezronima. That "unfortunate prince was concert- "ing his laſt meaſures with the

"conſpirators

" conſpirators at the time when
" we loſt him."

" O ye gods! what do you
" tell me? (cried Theone, melt-
" ing into tears:) my brother,
" then, at the ſame time deprived
" him of his innocence and life!
" What, was it in my family that
" he learnt to forget his duty!
" and Mezronima conſented!" . .

" If he had known the heart
" of Mezronima, and of Theone,
" as well as I do, interrupted Me-
" nocles, he would have lived,
" madam, and lived for you.
" How could he be blind to ſo
" many virtues and charms!"

" You

" You behold me with the
" eyes of prejudice, and it gives
" me pain, replied Theone: Mez-
" ronima has ſuperior beauty, and
" love owed her the preference.
" Friendſhip offered to make me
" amends: (how unequal to my
" wiſhes!) but that only inſpired
" me with higher pretenſions. I
" viewed the ſoul of Iphis, and
" found it pure and full of ſenſi-
" bility: without the ſnares of
" Protas and Mezronima, it had
" been the ſoul of a hero."

" Could Iphis, continued Me-
" nocles, miſtake the ſentiments
" with which he inſpired you?"

" I miſtook

"I miſtook them myſelf, anſ-
"wered ſhe. I as yet knew not
"even the name of love when it
"was already become irreſiſtible:
"all my efforts had ſcarce con-
"cealed it when I found myſelf
"under the neceſſity of ſtruggling
"againſt it. You know, Meno-
"cles, I have a hundred times re-
"proached myſelf with weakneſs.
"I have uſed no reſerve with you,
"becauſe I eſteemed you too much
"to flatter your unavailing hopes.
"You are now amply revenged."

"Not ſo, Theone, replied he:
"I ought to have been revenged
"of Mezronima. Do you think

"me

" me capable of a malignant ſa-
" tisfaction in ſeeing your paſſion
" as unfortunate as my own? I
" loved Iphis: I have mourned
" and regretted the loſs of him.
" If it depended on me to reſtore
" him to you, my reaſon would
" enjoy a luxurious triumph over
" my paſſion, by uniting you both
" together."

" It is ſhocking to me to em-
" bitter your life, cried Theone.
" How cruel is my deſtiny! I
" was born when my family was
" on the decline: I have found
" an aſylum with the queen; and
" this aſylum is become a retreat
" of horror; as if the anger of

" heaven

" heaven purſued me there. I " have loſt the only man I love: " I have rent the heart of the only " one I eſteem: and I die, lea- " ving my family diſgraced by " crimes, and perhaps by puniſh- " ment."

" Why do you continually " brood over ſuch melancholy re- " flections? replied Menocles, " ſorrowfully. What is become " of that firmneſs which ſet you " above the injuries of fortune?"

" It has no power over the tor- " ments of love, cried ſhe. I " could have ſeen, with a ſilent, " though not inſupportable, grief,

" the happy Mezronima in the
" arms of Iphis: the happineſs of
" my lover would have been an
" equivalent for my own. I
" ſhould have enjoyed his virtues
" and glory, and acquitted my-
" ſelf for indulging a ſecret paſ-
" ſion which every heart would
" juſtify by its own attachment to
" him. But I ſhall never ſee him
" more: I find myſelf ſinking un-
" der my misfortunes. Come,
" Menocles, (added ſhe, with re-
" peated marks of deſpair, which
" pierced my heart,) come, and
" let us inform Clidemus of the
" blow that threatens him. Let
" us ſave, if poſſible, thoſe who
" are meditating it. To-morrow,
" perhaps

" perhaps to-morrow, Stratim and " Protas will loſe my feeble ſup- " port: at leaſt, do not refuſe " them yours, which you have " promiſed."

" Come, madam, ſaid he, with " a low voice, let us unite our en- " deavours in their favour. But " do you think that Menocles " could ſtill watch over their fate " if they were to loſe you to-mor- " row? I ſhould have ſupported, " with firmneſs, the ſight of your " nuptials; but I ſhould not ſur- " vive that of your death."

They withdrew, and left me in a ſituation not to be expreſſed.

Love and hatred, joy and grief, hope and fear, admiration and contempt, agitated me by turns. I could not conceive how Mezronima and Protas had uſurped that eſteem, in my mind, which was due only to Theone and Menocles. A thick veil was juſt then torn from before my eyes, and I imagined, as it were, that I then felt and thought for the firſt time in my life. I turned my eyes from the wonderful wall of ſteel, in order to be more myſelf, and not introduce again thoſe traitors whom I bluſhed for having ſo careſſed.

O ye gods! exclaimed I, I adore Theone: I am beloved by her:

her: and our hearts are not laid open till I am in a ſituation which prevents me throwing myſelf at her feet, and declaring my ardour, ſhame, and remorſe. Cupid, thou wilt not now diſclaim the dart which pierces me! it came from thy beneficent hand! How lovely Theone appears by her ſenſibility and grief! O ye gods! who protect me, complete your work, and reſtore me to Doris, as the deſtined inſtrument of your vengeance and juſtice!

I made a firm reſolution, if ever I ſaw Theone again, to approve myſelf worthy of her, by the moſt glorious actions. Menocles had,

in my eye, a much juſter title to her than myſelf; my conduct, till that time, having ſerved only to diſgrace my name. Too indulgent Theone, (ſaid I, as if ſhe had been preſent,) you have ſeen only the ſeeds of virtue in my boſom; and you alone can make them vegetate. Violent paſſions, indulged by perfidious counſels, have led your Iphis aſtray: but you are now the object of his adoration: behold him returning into the road of wiſdom, honour, and happineſs. Dear Menocles, added I, you conſent to reſign me the hand of Theone: I ſhould make you a ſmaller ſacrifice, by giving you up my title to the crown;

crown; for that would be a benefit conferred on the Dorians, rather than on you. The art of ſubduing ourſelves qualifies us for the command over others: who would grudge to ſubmit to your authority? Henceforth your inſtruction and example ſhall be my guides.

Notwithſtanding the pleaſure I derived from theſe new ſentiments, uneaſineſs for what might be doing at my father's court recalled me from this reverie. I was deſirous of knowing how he would diſpoſe of the rebels, and ſecure himſelf from their attempts; and wiſhed him to leave the puniſh-

ment of them to the gods. The one had obtained favour for them with me: but it was to be feared that the conſpiracy would break out before the ring-leaders were ſecured. Though I deteſted the crime, I was willing to ſave thoſe guilty perſons whoſe death ſhe would have bewailed. I trembled leſt the king, in his ſeverity, ſhould liſten only to the voice of the laws. How is it, ſaid I to myſelf, that criminals need any other puniſhment than the remembrance of their crimes, and the horror they inſpire? that ought to be ſufficient to bring them back to their duty. Death is a favour that the wretched envy, and ſhould be denied

denied to villains. Let the liberty of doing miſchief be taken from them, but not the opportunity of returning to innocence. Would I could perſuade my father to this maxim!

At this inſtant, I lifted up my eyes towards the place where the power of Harpocrates ſhewed me the objects I deſired; and I ſaw Clidemus and my mother tenderly embracing Theone in their arms. "If my ſon, ſaid the king to her, "had loved you as he did Mez-"ronima, his paſſion had been "dignified by its object, and we "ſhould not have had reaſon to "bewail his faults or his death."

" Alas! my lord, replied Theone, if the prince had loved me, I was too ſenſible of the inferiority of my ſtation to let him find in my heart a return of his paſſion which would be derogatory to his honour. You would not have ſeen Theone diſpute his hand with the princeſs Hermoclea. Proud of the ſacrifice I ſhould have made, happy that you were pleaſed, and ever reſigned to your will, I ſhould ſtill have concealed a paſſion which deſpair alone has ſuffered me now to declare."

" You have diſſembled it too well, interrupted the queen. I thought

" thought I had a glimpſe of it,
" and have more than once tried
" to bring you to terms. The
" deſire of oppoſing your charms
" to thoſe of Mezronima, and of
" making you happy and more at-
" tached to me, entered into my
" views: but you have veiled
" your heart with ſo much care,
" that I at laſt concluded it was
" reſerved for Menocles."

" Ah! madam, (replied The-
" one, throwing herſelf at her
" feet,) how could I dare diſcover
" ſentiments to you which I diſ-
" claimed myſelf? Could I pre-
" ſume that my ſovereigns would
" favour ſuch hopes? Beſides,

" the intereſt of the ſtate forbad
" them: Hermoclea became a
" new obſtacle."

" Hermoclea was out of the
" queſtion (interrupted my fa-
" ther, raiſing her): that condi-
" tion of the treaty of Ariſtagoras
" was occaſioned by the cabals of
" your brother: he had ſecretly
" ſtirred up my ſubjects, and
" treated with that ſtranger. The
" interior troubles of my king-
" dom encouraged our neigh-
" bours to declare war againſt us:
" their preparations forced me to
" crave aſſiſtance: and the tyrant
" of Miletus offered me his. You
" know the reſt. But Iphis's love

" for

" for Mezronima was the pretence
" Protas made uſe of for troubling
" the repoſe of Cnidus.

" If my ſon had given you the
" preference, as I ſhould have
" been ſatisfied with his choice,
" (which needed no other ſanc-
" tion,) and ſhould not have
" wanted the ſupport of a new
" alliance, I had conſented to
" your marriage; and this u-
" nion would doubtleſs have ſet
" bounds to the ambitious views
" of your relations. But, guilty
" as they are, I pardon them.
" With reſpect to yourſelf, my
" dear Theone, do you continue

" at

" at my court: I cannot conſent
" to your retiring."

" I ſhall oppoſe it too (ſaid the
" queen, embracing her): you
" are more dear to me than ever:
" you ſhall be with me in the
" place of my ſon, and we will
" mourn his loſs together. Con-
" nexions founded in friendſhip
" and gratitude delight ſenſible
" minds. The care I ſhall take
" for your happineſs will be a re-
" turn for that you have taken
" for our lives."

This melancholy converſation was not carried on without tears. I afterwards learnt that Menocles had

had received orders to ſeize the conſpirators, whilſt I, buried in my reflections, had loſt the firſt ſcenes of their interview; and that Theone ſeemed reſolved to quit the court. I found my mind more at eaſe, when I ſuppoſed Clidemus and my mother were ſafe, by the precautions which had been taken. I inwardly thanked them for preſerving me Theone, and flattered myſelf with one day poſſeſſing her. It appeared improbable that the gods ſhould have wrought ſo many miracles in my favour, and leave their work imperfect.

Genuine love abandons not the heart of which it has taken poſſeſſion.

ſeſſion. Of this I was every moment convinced. I had only felt a mad intoxication for Mezronima, which domineered over my ſenſes: what I felt for Theone was ſomething as lively, but more gentle. My eyes, in gazing on the beauties of the one, had, as it were, conveyed fire into my boſom: my reaſon, in ſurveying the virtues of the other, filled it with brightneſs and pleaſure. Two paſſions, ſo different, muſt have a different fate.

I went out of the pavilion, fully reſolving to return to it the next day, and purſue my diſcoveries. After having taken ſome repoſe, I returned

I returned with eagerneſs. Let me ſee, ſaid I, what was the conduct of the father of Soſtrates; I wiſh to know a citizen who enjoys the public eſteem. Let me profit from the opportunity, I now have, of forewarning myſelf of the falſe appearances of the court. Without the miracle which is wrought, how ſhould I have eſcaped impoſition there?

Soſtrates appeared. He was alone in his cloſet, which I remembered to have ſeen at his country-houſe, about a hundred furlongs from Cnidus. His back was towards me, and he ſeemed to be writing very attentively. See there, cried

cried I, the retreat and amuſements of a philoſopher! Whilſt the bulk of mankind are carried away by the hurry of buſineſs; and ambition, intereſt, pleaſure, and revenge, actuate others; this man enjoys himſelf in the boſom of wiſdom. How ſhall I pity him when he knows his ſon is one of the rebels!

After having laboured ſo long, to aggrandize his family, and when, glutted with glory and honours, he might taſte the ſweets of repoſe, and behold his ſon follow his ſteps, that very ſon, by diſgracing himſelf, embitters his father's happineſs: under the cloke

of

of a falſe zeal, he defies the royal authority at the foot of the altar, and wiſhes to break, in the name of the gods, that ſcepter which the gods command to defend.

I drew near to Soſtrates, (it might be ſaid that I was ſeparated from him by only a tranſparent curtain,) and eaſily read every ſtroke of his pen. He wrote to his ſon as follows.

" I ſhall by no means be guided " by your ſentiments. You think " that my name, at the head of " the conſpiracy, would give it " more weight: I, on the con- " trary, think I ſhall be of more " ſervice

" ſervice to you by not appearing
" in it at all. It is not ſufficient,
" in political matters, to foreſee
" ſucceſs; we muſt likewiſe pro-
" vide againſt ill fortune, and not
" leave ourſelves without reſource.
" If the conſpiracy ſhould place
" Protas on the throne, the ſer-
" vices you will have rendered
" him will meet their recom-
" pence; and, if it ſhould fail, I
" ſhall obtain your pardon from
" Clidemus.

" My career is far advanced.
" Having had favours heaped on
" me at court, I have no farther
" claims; but I have every thing
" to loſe; it would therefore be
" imprudent

" imprudent to riſque my all. I
" affect to be the unbiaſſed citi-
" zen ; a character more ſuitable
" and ſafe, in my ſituation, than
" that of the leader of a party.

" I allow that you will improve
" your fortune and credit, if your
" ſchemes ſucceed ; but, if they
" miſcarry, as I obſerved before,
" you will want my ſuppoſed fi-
" delity to ſpeak in your favour.

" Credulity, weakneſs, and in-
" experience, the concomitants of
" youth, will plead in your ex-
" cuſe. I will exaſperate the king
" againſt thoſe who have ſeduced
" you. The nobles, prieſts, ſol-
" diers,

" diers, and citizens, convicted of
" treaſon, will furniſh victims e-
" nough for a ſacrifice.

" The greater contraſt my cha-
" racter is to yours, the more
" ſhall I be able to ſhelter you
" from any bad conſequences in
" the event. In fine, whatever
" ſucceſs ſhall attend this enter-
" prize, I hereby hazard not the
" fruit of my long labours, and
" leave you to begin yours with-
" out danger.

" Do not engage my ſervices
" to the conſpirators. Rely on
" my ſuperior knowledge. Con-
" ſider what I have done for my
" family;

" family; and improve, if you " can, the advantages it enjoys: " it ſhall be my care to preſerve " them."

He had written thus far, when one of his ſlaves preſented himſelf, in a great conſternation. " My " lord, ſaid he, return immedi- " ately to Cnidus. Your ſon is " undone, and has been put un- " der arreſt. A conſpiracy has " been diſcovered, and the houſe " of Protas is ſurrounded by ſol- " diers. Stratim, Axaris, and " ſeveral of the conſpirators, are " fled. Some others are already " in irons. It was with the great- " eſt difficulty imaginable that I " could

" could reach this place, to in-
" form you of it: all the roads
" are guarded. It is reported
" that Theone has betrayed her
" brother. The guard he had
" the command of is broke. Two
" thouſand men are armed in the
" palace. Soſtrates could not give
" me any farther information. I
" could not have come here but
" in diſguiſe, through by-ways,
" and in the dark."

The cunning courtier burnt his letter; and, thinking himſelf ſecure, gave immediate orders for his departure, and went to ſhew Clidemus a calm countenance, a rigid probity, an unreſerved attachment,

tachment, and heroic love for his country. Happy diſguiſe! as yet ſeen through by me alone.

Having ſeen this, I was eager to make a more agreeable object ſucceed. Divine Harpocrates! cried I, reſtore me the image of my Theone. I ſaw her, alas! but it was in the moſt cruel ſituation. How ſhall I draw a picture, the remembrance of which makes me ſtill tremble? Theone was in a ſwoon, and Protas, with a dagger in his hand, endeavouring to plunge it in her boſom. Two of her women, who expoſed their own perſons to ſhelter her, had already received the ſtrokes which

the inhuman Protas deſigned for his ſiſter, whilſt the reſt, with their ſhrieks, called for help.

It is impoſſible to conceive the agonies of my heart. "Unnatu-
"ral monſter! (ſaid the enraged
"Protas, forcing his way to her
"boſom,) cowards only conſent
"to die unrevenged: go before
"me to the ſhades; and receive,
"at my hands, the reward of
"your perfidy!" . . . The lovely Theone, that maſter-piece of nature, whom my ſoul idolized, was going to expire before my eyes, unaſſiſted by either my love or rage, when Menocles, attended by guards and ſlaves, came up

in

in haſte to the place where the outcry was. At ſight of him, Protas, finding no hopes but in flight, leaped, from a gallery that ſurrounded the palace, into a canal which flowed over the walls of it on that ſide.

The blood which was ſpilt in Theone's chamber, ſhe herſelf without ſenſe, and her two women dying, were a ſpectacle too affecting to allow any other care than that of reſtoring her to life. Protas was ſuffered to eſcape, and no one thought of purſuing him.

This ſhocking ſcene, however, terminated more fortunately than I

had reaſon to hope. The cruel Protas, blinded with rage, had miſſed his aim, and Theone recovered her ſenſes. The preſence of Menocles, the kindneſs of the queen, who came to ſee her, and the certainty that the wounds her women had received were not mortal, calmed her mind. She was put to bed; her fatigue lulled her to ſleep; and guards were placed at her door. They would then, too late, have ſearched for Protas: intelligence was brought, that, while they were ſtriving to break into his houſe, in hopes of ſurpriſing him, he had hid himſelf in the palace; and that no traces of him could be diſcovered

ſince

ſince his fruitleſs attempt to murder his ſiſter.

When my fears for Theone were removed, I again proſtrated myſelf at the feet of Harpocrates, to implore his ſupport, to return thanks for his favours, and to recover my ſtrength and ſpirits, which theſe ſtormy moments had exhauſted.

However delightful the gardens of the palace were, in which this god vouchſafed me an aſylum, I did not retire from the ſacred grove, where I had ſeen Cupid, but in order to return to the cabinet of ſteel. I was going there,

when, in paſſing through the windings of the labyrinth, I was ſtruck with a new phænomenon. In the midſt of a verdant ſpot, over which I had walked, I at firſt obſerved only a plain graſs-plot; but I afterwards found it enamelled with the choiceſt flowers. I ſtopt a moment to enjoy the perfume they breathed; when, gazing on them, I remarked that they formed cyphers, characters, and a quiver; and I read theſe words:

" Iphis, in thy heart behold
" Cupid himſelf his works unfold:
" True Love thou doſt diſcover.
" Now thou'ſt ſubmitted to his fire,
" His precepts, join'd with thy deſire,
" Foretel thee a happy lover."

I have

I have no doubt, cried I in idea, of the happineſs which is promiſed me. I love, and am beloved: that is an earneſt of it. Pleaſing god! I give myſelf up to thee: let the exceſs of my love be the meaſure of thy bleſſings, and the ſtandard of the worſhip which is due to thee! Full of hope and joy, I purſued my way, and went to conſult my wonted oracle.

The confidence, with which I was inſpired by the new miracle of the flowers, diſpoſed me to amuſe myſelf with objects leſs intereſting, and I called on Hege-

dippa to appear. I did not think ſhe could ſafely ſtand the teſt of examination; but I was too indifferent about her to be unhappy on her account. She preſently offered herſelf to my curioſity, when Eriſthenes accoſted her at the entrance of her apartment. "I "was juſt going out, ſaid ſhe to "him; but I want to ſpeak a few "words to you: ſtay" . . .

"I have likewiſe a thouſand "things to tell you, replied he. "I am much afraid we ſhall be "involved in the diſgrace of Pro-"tas and Mezronima. I made "my appearance this morning at "the king's levee, as uſual, but "nobody

" nobody was there; and all the
" courtiers ſeem purpoſely to a-
" void me. Surpriſed at this
" change, I came away much
" diſconcerted. I make no doubt
" but I ſhall ſoon be ſent back a-
" gain to that retreat from which
" your intereſt has taken me."

" Take courage, replied ſhe:
" I have ſo conducted myſelf as
" to have nothing to fear; but I
" would only adviſe you, as it
" ſeems neceſſary, to haſten your
" departure." . . .

" What! haſten my depart-
" ure?" interrupted he. " Yes,
" replied ſhe, ſo as to elude a pur-

" ſuit. When the jealous eyes
" of your rivals are no longer
" wounded by your preſence, it
" will be more eaſy for me to
" make head againſt the ſtorm.
" But, if you delay any longer,
" you will be charged with dark
" deſigns and ſuſpicious connec-
" tions, and" . . .

" But, (interrupted he, in his
" turn,) in the preſent circum-
" ſtances, my hurry to get out of
" the way will have the air of
" fear, and create ſuſpicions. I
" was not to go to my government
" in leſs than a month: under
" what pretence can I be abſent
" ſooner?"

" Gently,

" Gently, ſaid Hegedippa: let
" us ſpeak plainly. You are un-
" experienced in the affairs and
" intrigues of a court. Snares
" may be laid for you which you
" will not be aware of: there are
" many who wiſh to bring you into
" ſcrapes. Under colour of re-
" lationſhip I have been able to
" ſerve you; but it may not per-
" haps be in my power to ſup-
" port you againſt your own miſ-
" takes and the handle they will
" afford to your enemies."

" Still, replied he, I cannot
" account for your calmneſs: I
" am uneaſy for yourſelf. Can

" you think of appearing again at
" court, under the preſent unfa-
" vourable proſpect."

" I will appear again there,
" ſaid ſhe, as I did when I was
" firſt introduced, and change
" my battery. My firſt plan was
" to avail myſelf of Mezronima's
" intereſt; and my next, to take
" her place in the affections of I-
" phis or Protas. I have ſerved
" her, to appearance, in both in-
" trigues, to gain one of her ad-
" mirers. All my efforts would
" have centered in him that ſuc-
" ceeded to the crown. Already
" ſure of his gratitude, I ſhould
" artfully have carried that princi-
" ple

" ple farther than he would be a-
" ware of. Mezronima is hand-
" ſome; but wit and addreſs, in
" the end, prevail over perſonal
" charms."

" That I grant, ſaid Eriſthenes:
" but Iphis is dead, and Protas
" loſt. What then remains for
" you?" . . .

" Let them be forgot, conti-
" nued Hegedippa, ſmiling. I
" will go and join Theone; ad-
" mire her, with Menocles; la-
" ment Iphis, with the queen;
" and talk politics with the king.
" I will humour the inclinations,
" foibles, and intereſts of his mi-
" niſters;

" niſters; and you ſhall ſee, that,
" by exciting the ambition of one,
" and flattering the capacity of
" another, I will make myſelf
" neceſſary or formidable."

" Well, madam, anſwered E-
" riſthenes, I perceive your ſkill,
" and will be guided by your pru-
" dence. I would not have any
" wrong ſteps of mine expoſe you
" to danger. I owe every thing
" to you, and will obey you."
After this declaration they parted.

Somebody came and informed her, that Herocles deſired to ſee her. The reception ſhe gave him ſoon explained the nature of the good-

good-will with which ſhe honoured him.

" I am vexed, ſaid ſhe: I did
" not expect to ſee you till night,
" and I have buſineſs which forces
" me to leave you. Eriſthenes
" has already made me loſe time,
" which I would rather have be-
" ſtowed on you. I muſt go to
" the palace."

" I have reaſon to be jealous of
" Eriſthenes, anſwered Herocles:
" you have received him, and will
" not receive me."

" Fie, ſaid ſhe; why do you
" think of jealouſy? Eriſthenes
" had

" had only ſome family-concerns
" to ſettle with me. You know
" I love you; and I think myſelf
" ſure of your attachment. But,
" after all, it is impoſſible for us
" to be always together. Adieu:
" I leave you."

" How ridiculous this is! ſaid
" he, ſtopping her: you treat me
" to-day with ſingular cruelty.
" There was a time (continued
" he, with a ſpiteful ſmile) when
" you would have ſhewn more
" complaiſance for Iphis."

" What! you are in an ill-
" humour, cried Hegedippa: you
" are an ingrate. I have your in-
" tereſt

" tereſt at heart as much as your
" pleaſures, and you ought to ſet
" a higher value on my ſervices."

" Ah, very well! interrupted
" he; it is to ſerve me that you
" aſk" . . . " Doubtleſs,
" interrupted ſhe alſo. I am ſeek-
" ing to raiſe you on the ruins of
" Protas. The amiable Drinoples
" has promiſed me the intereſt of
" Pherecydes to procure you the
" command of the king's guard,
" and Pherecydes can do any
" thing with Clidemus. In re-
" turn for this favour, indeed, I
" am ſoliciting for the brother of
" Drinoples to be ambaſſador to
" Miletus. Ruſſias has underta-
" ken

" ken to mention it to the king
" when he leaves the council, and
" I am going to enquire if he has
" kept his word. Beſides, I muſt
" ſee Theone: I have ſome ſe-
" crets concerning Mezronima to
" reveal to her, which I would
" make a merit of. In ſhort, I
" have not a moment to loſe;
" and people of ſenſe give only
" their leiſure hours to love."

" You are very ſtrange, replied
" Herocles: it is in vain to chide
" you. But do but look at me,
" at leaſt. Do you know that
" your eyes contradict what you
" ſay, and will not let me go?
" Oh! I cannot" . . .

" I

" I will ſee you again to-night, " ſaid ſhe impatiently: when, " eaſed from the cares of the day, " young Tydæa, Adraſtus, you, " and I, will give ourſelves up to " pleaſure. Adieu: I can liſten " to you no longer." She gave him her hand and went out.

I was exceedingly ſurpriſed at the character of Hegedippa; not expecting to find the ſpirit of intrigue in her, joined to a taſte for pleaſure. The ambition of this woman, ſo long concealed at court; the ſprings ſhe had put in motion there; the profound diſſimulation ſhe had acquired; the coolneſs

coolneſs with which ſhe foreſaw a tempeſt in the midſt of a calm; and her addreſs in ſecuring herſelf an eſcape in the wreck; furniſhed a train of ideas, and contraſt of paſſions, altogether incomprehenſible. I had till then imagined that the buſineſs and talent of women were to pleaſe, and not to govern.

Do they then rule over the men they ſeduce? ſaid I to myſelf; and does a ſovereign, a legiſlator, or a conqueror, who fancies he acts from his own diſcernment, knowledge, and reflections, only follow the track marked out by the luſtre of two ſparkling eyes?

Happy

Happy the man of ſenſe, whoſe heart chooſes a guide which will not lead him aſtray! and the philoſopher who fortifies his againſt every love but that of wiſdom! If I did not adore Theone, I would rather be Pythagoras than maſter of the world. Scarce had this reflection eſcaped me, when the ſteel wall diſplayed the moſt magnificent ſpectacle.

Pythagoras, with joy painted in his face, was offering a hecatomb to the gods, by way of returning thanks for the wonderful diſcovery he had made; whilſt Leon, king of Phlius, encouraged the acclamations which the people laviſhed

on

on that great man, by applauding his fame himſelf.

I was ignorant what that valuable diſcovery was, which was celebrated by ſo pompous a ſacrifice. I had been often told that he laboured inceſſantly to perfect the knowledge of philoſophy, and that he had conſtantly applied himſelf to the contemplation of nature and truth. He knew the courſes and motions of the ſtars: he had ſtudied the human heart; and, by his precepts and example, guided it in the road to virtue. Being a zealous citizen, and faithful friend, his manners (which were as pure as his doctrine) merited

rited all the encomiums which were beſtowed on him, and drew after him a proportionable number of diſciples.

I had been farther informed, that, after having almoſt travelled over the globe, and ſpread every where the fruits and fame of his wiſdom, he ſtopt at Phlius; where Leon, the ſovereign of that little ſtate, received him with diſtinction. I knew alſo that this prince, who was eager for every ſpecies of glory, diſplayed every kind of virtue, which pride expoſes to the view of the public. Already celebrated for his conqueſts and policy, he wiſhed to increaſe his fame,

fame, by aſſembling the ſages, poets, and artiſts of Greece. He invited them into his kingdom, with a view to immortalize his reign, either by their own works, or by the compliments they might pay to his. But I did not know what new obligation was due to the genius of Pythagoras.

A youth, who appeared to be a ſtranger, made his way through the croud, and (being as curious as myſelf) enquired the reaſon of this rejoicing. "Sir, (anſwered "an old man, to whom he ad-"dreſſed himſelf,) that philoſo-"pher, whom you ſee at the foot "of the altar, is alſo an able geo-"metrician.

" metrician. He has juſt found
" out, and demonſtrated, *that the*
" *ſquare of the hypothenuſe of a*
" *right-angled triangle is equal to*
" *the ſquares of the two other ſides.*
" It is to thank the gods for this,
" that he now ſacrifices a hundred
" oxen."

" I beg pardon, ſir, replied the
" young man, but I do not un-
" derſtand you: be ſo kind as to
" explain the meaning of *the ſquare*
" *of the hypothenuſe*, &c."

" With all my heart, replied
" the venerable perſonage. It is
" that inconteſtible demonſtration,
" that *two and two make four.*"

This ſublime diſcovery did not attract the admiration of the young man. He anſwered him only by burſts of laughter, and went out of the temple. I own it made no other impreſſion on me; and I was going to efface this picture by other wiſhes, when a new actor rendered the ſcene more amuſing.

Xenophanes of Colophon, a poet, hiſtorian, and philoſopher, out of humour with his own country, (where his character, which was in leſs eſtimation than his talents, gained him many enemies, at the ſame time that his works were unrivalled,) wandered a long time in

in ſearch of fame, and every where found his writings admired, and himſelf ſlighted. Arriving at the court of Leon, in his way from Zancle and Cotane, he was ſoon intoxicated by the favours he received. The prince loaded him with honours and careſſes; and Xenophanes, for the firſt time, approached the throne, was clad in purple, and preſently forgot himſelf.

Being full of envy, and preſuming on the credit he had gained, he imagined that whatever honour Pythagoras received was at his expence. He ran to the altar, like one wild, in the midſt of

the ſacrifice, and cried out, with a loud voice: "Stop! Pythago-" ras is impoſing on the gods, the " king, and the whole world: " we are indebted to Thales for " the diſcovery of this propoſition, " and of its properties: here is " the figure drawn, by his own " hand: and Pythagoras is no " better than an ungrateful pla-" giary."

Pythagoras was provoked at this affront. Leon interpoſed, and gave orders that the fact ſhould be inquired into, and the queſtion diſcuſſed with temper on both ſides. The two diſputants began their attack; their partizans ranged themſelves

themſelves as it were in battle-array; ſome diſciples of Thales eſpouſed his cauſe with Xenophanes; there was a loud confuſion of voices; the queſtion became more perplexed than ever; their minds were heated; and Pythagoras obſtinately maintained, that he alone had demonſtrated that *two and two make four.*

Enraged at not being liſtened to, he threw his mathematical-inſtrument-caſe at the head of Xenophanes: the other, in return, drew out his iron-pen, and engraved ſome inſcriptions on his adverſary's face. The king, who tried in vain to ſeparate them, re-

ceived blows from the one, and ſcratches from the other. However, he at length diſarmed them; and, without ſearching the affair to the bottom, commanded Xenophanes never to appear again before him.

Pythagoras thought this a triumph: but the king relented, received the poet again, and ſpoke in the moſt obliging manner to him. This reconciliation appeared to be ſincere; and who could have imagined, that, after ſuch a kind reception, Leon would have reſumed his anger? He diſmiſſed him without any apparent cauſe, and the poet was again obliged to fly.

fly. As ſoon as the king had loſt ſight of him he cried out, "Let "him be purſued! the daring "wretch has taken away my col-"lection of oracles: let him be "ſtopped and puniſhed."

This ſtrange ſcene proved to me, too plainly, the weakneſs of human nature, the tyranny of the paſſions, the errors of the mind, and the extravagances of pride. How, ſaid I to myſelf, (reflecting on it with terror,) how can I flatter myſelf that I ſhall hereafter govern with prudence? I muſt diſtruſt myſelf and every one about me. Philoſophers, courtiers, miſtreſſes, miniſters, and warriors,

your ignorance, your intereſts, your caprices, your vanity, or your ambition, ſuggeſt, to thoſe unhappy princes who hearken to you, the enterprizes and actions by which poſterity judges of them. Ah, Theone! ah, Menocles! your virtues encourage me, and I ought not to diſtruſt them.

At this inſtant I perceived them both in the queen's apartment; where my father came, attended by old Soſtrates. I was given to underſtand that Protas, far from accepting the pardon which was offered him, and meriting it by repentance, had gathered together a number of ſeditious men, with whom

whom he made reſiſtance. He had even had the audacity to conceive a deſign of ſurpriſing and forcing the guard of the palace in the night; but, not having been able to ſucceed in his attempt, he retreated, fighting, at the head of his accomplices, to the temple of Venus; where, under the protection of the goddeſs, and in the preſence of Mezronima, he hoped to defend himſelf.

This was almoſt as inviolable an aſylum for him as for the prieſteſs herſelf; nevertheleſs the king made a kind of blockade there. All communication being hereby cut off, it was hoped they would ſoon

be reduced. Young Soſtrates, being favoured for the ſuppoſed merit of his father, was only condemned to baniſhment; but the other rebels were given up to the rigour of the laws. I was beſides informed, that the iſles of Coös, Claros, and Rhodes, were ſo far from forming a league againſt the Dorians, that they only thought of defending themſelves; and that they were even negotiating a general confederacy, jointly to oppoſe Polycrates, the ſucceſsful tyrant of Samos. That conqueror, ever fortunate in his undertakings, intended, after he had diſturbed Greece, at leaſt to ravage its colonies.

Ariſtagoras

Ariſtagoras was firſt threatened by him, and ſought an alliance with the Dorians. He changed the language of a protector, who grants his aſſiſtance only on conditions that pleaſe him, for that of a terrified prince, who could not alone withſtand the forces and good fortune of an enemy which had been ſo long invincible. Every one of the neighbouring ſtates was willing to ſuccour Miletus, apprehending, if that were reduced, they themſelves ſhould ſink under the power that threatened it.

My mother and Theone remained alone. Being intent on

the ſame object, and ſharing in the ſame affliction, they amuſed themſelves by opening their hearts to one another; and nothing but force could part them. As ſoon as they were diſengaged their eyes were filled with tears. "Ah! "my dear Theone, cried the "queen, what happy moments "ſhould we enjoy, if the gods "had left me my ſon! the prin- "ceſs Hermoclea would now no "longer be preferred to you, from "reaſons of ſtate. Undeceived "with reſpect to Mezronima, and "ſure of our conſent, Iphis would "at laſt have done juſtice to your "charms, and offered you his "vows without oppoſition or dan- "ger."

"Alas!

"Alas! madam, replied Theone, this moment makes no addition to my troubles. Why might not that amiable prince be reſtored to you, love Hermoclea, and hate me? I could conſent to it without murmuring: I ſhould ſee him at leaſt."

They then gathered together ſome trifles which they had received from me, and were moved at the ſight of them; as if thoſe lifeleſs things had been formerly a part of me, and could ſtill convey to me marks of affection from a mother and an inconſolable lover.

"I know

" I know not what poſſeſſes
" me, ſaid the queen; but, not-
" withſtanding my diſtreſs, I feel
" a ray of hope which I cannot
" account for. It is certain that
" my ſon diſappeared the inſtant
" the earth opened, and there are
" many witneſſes of his death;
" nevertheleſs an unknown power
" checks this idea in my mind,
" and each day the illuſion in-
" creaſes."

" Ah! madam, replied The-
" one, let us not flatter ourſelves.
" The illuſion you indulge is but
" the creature of a tender mind,
" which with difficulty renounces
" the

" the object of its affection. It
" coſts us too much to be con-
" vinced of the loſs of what we love;
" and we are as willing to doubt
" of the misfortune which ſnatches
" it from us, as we are to prevent
" it."

" How cruel you are, Theone!
" replied the queen: let me che-
" riſh a deluſion which gives me
" ſo much pleaſure: I am perſua-
" ded that it comes from the gods,
" and many omens juſtify it. I
" dreamt, laſt night, that Apollo
" and Diana, moved with the fate
" of Niobe, and ſatisfied with
" their revenge, re-animated her
" ſtatue and thoſe of her children.

" This

" This morning I ſaw a kite dart
" down on a ſwallow's neſt. At
" the cries of the diſtreſſed mo-
" ther, an eagle came, and at-
" tacked the kite; which, in en-
" deavouring to defend itſelf, let
" go its prey, and the young ones
" dropt down gently upon the
" turf."

The queen's forebodings were, without doubt, inſpirations from heaven. God of love! (ſaid I, immediately proſtrating myſelf,) deign to convey them into the heart of Theone: it is too much to lament a lover whom thou haſt preſerved for her.

I uttered

I uttered this prayer ſo fervently, that the god immediately granted it. My mother and Theone cried out in ſurpriſe, and (both ſpeaking to each other at once) ſaid, "Did you likewiſe hear the voice, "which has announced that Iphis "ſtill lives?" . . . "Ah! "madam" . . "Ah! Theone" . . . "What a miracle!"

Tears of joy were, for a ſhort time, the only expreſſion of their happineſs. They held each other in cloſe embraces, and ſtammered out ſome unconnected words, the confuſion of which filled me with rapture. At laſt, being no longer

able

able to contain their tranſports, they haſtened to the palace, to ſpread the news of my approaching return.

How ſweet it is to love, and to partake, in every ſentiment, with the object of our affection! Why does pride ſometimes arm itſelf againſt this ſenſibility? Whence is it that certain ſages make perfection conſiſt in not attaching ourſelves to any thing on earth? In vain they applaud that univerſal indifference: the ſwelling names they beſtow on it are not worth what it coſts. How many of theſe rigid men are to be found, who treat love as a weakneſs, and indulge

dulge themſelves in leſs innocent foibles! How many of them have I ſeen contending for their opinions with more indecency and acrimony than two rival lovers who are diſputing a conqueſt! How many are there who publicly declaim againſt pleaſure, and privately purſue it to a degree of phrenzy!

In ſpite of their auſtere maxims, I was pleaſed with ſympathiſing in the pains and pleaſures of my mother and Theone, I made them, as it were, my own; and their happineſs, or miſery, determined mine.

The

The joy they experienced, on hearing that I was ſtill alive, conferred additional value on my own exiſtence. After the quarrel of Pythagoras, ſages and philoſophers by profeſſion no longer impoſed on me to ſuch a degree, as to ſubdue my mind, before examination, to their ſpeculative, I will not ſay practical, morality. However, I had heard the Portico at Athens ſpoken of with ſo much veneration, that I was curious to learn what paſſed there.

Without doubt, I preſumed, Greece owes the progreſs it has made in the ſciences and fine arts

to

to the philoſophers, orators, and poets, who aſſemble there: it muſt be they who give us at once principles and models? I wiſhed to ſee them, and they inſtantly appeared.

I attentively conſidered the motion of their lips, imagining that they were about to communicate important diſcoveries, ſplendid maxims, and ſtrokes full of fire. There were about twelve or fifteen of them; and a great number of diſciples, or inquiſitive perſons, were waiting, like myſelf, for the oracles they were going to pronounce.

The meeting was confined to three hours. The firſt hour was beſtowed on common topics. One of theſe ſages related, in a dull manner, the adventures of a courtezan. Another gave minute particulars of a ſupper the preceding evening. A third announced the departure of a ſhip. Several made up a party together. At laſt, an old man, who was much celebrated, propoſed to read one of his odes. He did ſo, and I thought it admirable: but ſomebody obſerved that, in the ſpace of thirty years ſince he compoſed it, he had read it thirty times.

After

After the cuſtomary applauſes, a queſtion was ſtarted, whether it would not better to put the letter Kappa [K] in the place the Gamma [Γ] occupies in the alphabet, and to place the Γ after the letter Phi [Φ]? They afterwards proſcribed ſome others, whoſe long ſervices were never rewarded. A warm diſpute aroſe on etymology: a certain point in orthography was decided: and afterwards ſome tales, in elegant verſe, were rehearſed, which, under lively and pleaſing colours, repreſented all the robberies love can commit on modeſty.

Are theſe the boaſted ſages? cried I; and are their meetings intended

tended only to exhibit the employments of their leiſure-hours?

One of them gave notice, that a Theban, celebrated for many excellent works, ſolicited the favour of being admitted a member. This Theban had rivals, who were ſtrongly ſupported, and the pretenſions urged on one ſide, and favour to be granted on the other, were deliberately weighed. Merit had nigh prevailed: all their voices were raiſing the Theban to the rank of a ſage, and even his writ of admiſſion was preparing, (whilſt they received him into the Portico,) when a miniſter of Deſtiny acquainted them that he forbad

bad their proceedings, in the name of the gods.

"How! In what has he of-
"fended the gods? (cried all who
"heard this meſſage.) He
"ver affronted their
"his conduct or writings. There
"are ſome of the deſcendants of
"the Titans ſtill living amongſt
"us, whom their vengeance pur-
"ſues not. What ſignifies it to
"the gods that this Theban is ad-
"mitted among the great geni-
"uſes of Greece?" They ran to the temple, and repreſented to the miniſter, that he diſhonoured a virtuous man.

" I know, replied he, that he " is not ſo immoral as he is pro- " fane; but he is not aſhamed to " keep a naked Venus among his " houſehold-gods, which he impu- " dently expoſes to all beholders."

" It was thus, anſwered they, " that ſhe roſe out of the ſea. Are, " then, thoſe who veil the truth " more innocent? Beſides, ſome " of our poets at this very time " pay homage to the naked Graces: " do you think them leſs ſedu- " cing?"

The high-prieſt, unwilling to diſcuſs the queſtion any farther, remained

remained inflexible; and they durſt not admit the Theban into the Athenian Portico, there to diſplay the riches of his imagination. Vexed at ſeeing him excluded, I withdrew my attention, and the ſcene changed.

I thought of Pherecydes, and he appeared. I employed myſelf in following him about for a whole day: I ſaw him in his cloſet; I ſaw him with the king; and I ſaw him in a circle of women. At laſt I left him indulging himſelf at a voluptuous ſupper. I knew Pherecydes wherever I found him. His gaiety attends him in the moſt perplexing affairs, and his pru-

dence in his pleaſures. He loves the king; he loves the ſtate; and ſpares nothing to ſerve both. Although a ſubtile courtier, he dares be an open friend or enemy. Incapable of any violent paſſion, yet ſuſceptible of every emotion, he has availed himſelf of them all. With a mind penetrating, flexible, and engaging; an imagination lively and brilliant; and a general knowledge, even in trifles; he is become the judge, model, and maſter of the women. His ſuffrage has been long the ſtandard of their charms. Born to ſeduce them, and dextrous in deceiving them, they have all courted his favour; but not one has

fixed

fixed him her own. Bluſtering, peremptory, and of a noble appearance, he commands their attention, wins, and dazzles them: they deſire, fear, and eſteem, him.

From this time I ſeldom went out of the place where ſo many ſurpriſing things were offered to my view, in a manner ſtill more ſurpriſing. Nevertheleſs, when I had exhauſted all the diſcoveries which my love, my hatred, my intereſts, or my curioſity, made me believe would be of ſervice to me, I began again to lament bitterly the tedioufneſs of my exile. I flattered myſelf that a ſecond miracle would reſtore me to Cni-

dus; but heaven deferred it too long to pleaſe my impatience.

I burned with deſire to ſwear eternal love to Theone. I knew her heart, and wiſhed her to know mine. I entertained a delightful idea of the happy moment when my love was to obtain an acknowledgement of her ſenſibility. Clidemus, my mother, and Menocles, were likewiſe objects too dear to ſuffer me to be abſent from them ſo long without repining. The power of making them appear before my eyes did not content me.

I forbad myſelf to reflect on Protas and Mezronima: the remembrance

brance of them filled me with horror. But, eaſy under the protection of the gods, and the meaſures which the king had taken, I no longer dreaded that odious pair, and was ſtudious to avoid their appearance. Perhaps, if Theone had been indifferent to me, I ſhould not have ſo ardently wiſhed to return to Doris. The Palace of Silence was an agreeable retreat; and the picture of the world, which was there expoſed to view, would have had charms for a mind that is inquiſitive, ardent, and diſengaged: but, after having availed myſelf of the power of Harpocrates, by procuring neceſſary information, I was ſoon

weary of prying into ſecrets which did not concern me.

Many experiments of this kind ſerved only to remove the good opinion I had entertained of ſome celebrated men, who ſhrunk, as it were, under examination. Being ſatisfied with knowing thoſe who were to be about me, I determined to learn no more to deſpiſe men, by diving into their vices, weakneſſes, and errors. I made an allowance for the care they take to conceal them. We run the riſque of hating them when we would ſurpriſe them before they are prepared to put on an amiable appearance.

I was

I was convinced that, in general, human nature had its dark ſide, and I was ſenſible that I ſhould conſult my pleaſure by conſidering it in the favourable point of view. Who would analyſe a fine flower, if he were aware that its decompoſition would produce only a poiſon?

An inſupportable languor ſeized my mind, conſumed as I was with eagerneſs again to ſee her I adored; diſcouraged by the inſurmountable obſtacles which ſtill prevented my return; and deprived of the reſources of ſociety. I in vain called the idea of Theone to

my aſſiſtance, by tracing her features, words, and actions. The prodigy roufed my ardour, and rendered me more miſerable. The more we obtain, the more we deſire. The gods had ſnatched me from the ſeduction of my paſſions; from the ſnares of my enemies; from the crime of rebellion, into which they were drawing me; and from death itſelf, which was ready to overtake me: I felt, and I inſpired, genuine love: in a word, I knew the value of virtue: nevertheleſs Theone's abſence appeared to me the moſt dreadful of my torments; and the conſiderations of hope and joy, which ought to have allayed them, ſcarcely reſtrained

reſtrained me from murmuring at my afflictions.

I paſſed ſome time in a cruel agitation; ſometimes melting into tears, at the feet of Harpocrates, or in the grove of Cupid; ſometimes calling for the image of my miſtreſs on the ſacred walls, which were honoured by receiving her impreſſion. The ſilence which reigned around me, and which no ſounds from my lips could interrupt, added to my diſtreſs; but that diſtreſs was dear to me. I wiſhed to ſee Theone again, or to bewail her. Nothing could efface her image from my thoughts: my eyes were lifted up only to heaven or to her.

Divine Pythagoras, (ſaid I one day within myſelf, recalling to mind ſome periods of his life,) the dart of Abaris would be more uſeful to me than to yourſelf. Your happineſs does not depend on being rapidly tranſported from place to place. Your love centers no where!

It is impoſſible to conceive the ecſtaſy I felt when I ſaw it fall down near me, as I expreſſed this wiſh. I ſeized it with tranſport; and (being unwilling to defer the uſe of it any longer than whilſt I returned thanks to the gods) I ran to embrace the ſtatue of Harpocrates,

crates, and I cut off my locks, which I hung up near it as a ſacrifice and token of my gratitude. I invoked the god of love, took my dart, wiſhed to be at Cnidus, and flew through the air.

I fancied myſelf tranſported on the wings of the ſon of Venus. His fires, his raptures, filled my heart too much to admit a thought but of my approaching happineſs. I was going to ſee Theone again: I was going to tell her all I felt for her: I was going to taſte a happineſs which I as yet knew only by hope. My imagination, anticipating the power of the gods, flew towards Cnidus with greater rapidity

rapidity than myſelf, and ſeemed to aſſiſt the prodigy.

In vain immenſe ſeas, vaſt mountains, frightful precipices, ſmiling plains, cities, armies, and fleets, were offered to my view: neither fear nor curioſity could ſtop me an inſtant. The Sun himſelf, who never ſuſpends his courſe, and begins his career with impatience to return to the arms of Thetis, ſaw me, more impatient, out-ſtrip his car.

An uncommon emotion apprized me of my approach to Cnidus; when, on a ſudden, inſtead of moving in a horizontal direction, I found

found myſelf deſcending perpendicularly.

I preſently diſtinguiſhed the ſhouts of a croud of people, who who were aſtoniſhed at the phænomenon. Thoſe Cnidians who firſt ſaw me, and did not recollect me, without doubt ſuppoſed I was a god; for they fell proſtrate before me.

At length I arrived at the front of the palace; when Clidemus, my mother, and the whole court, attracted by the novelty of the ſight, and the ſhouts which preceded it, came haſtily to meet me. Another ſhout of the attentive multitude

titude almoſt unanimouſly called on me by name. Clidemus and my mother, approaching me with eagerneſs, knew me alſo. " Oh " ye gods! cried they both, it is " my ſon!"

I threw myſelf into their arms, and was afraid, for a moment, that our joy would have proved fatal. Every delightful ſentiment which nature can inſpire filled our hearts. Nothing was heard, at firſt, but a tender murmur, broken ſpeeches, and interrupted ſighs.

Clidemus, whom a long train of philoſophic meditations had armed

armed againſt misfortunes, was unable to reſiſt the impreſſion made on him by an unexpected pleaſure. His reaſon, his firmneſs, the troubles of his kingdom, the dignity of his rank, and the neceſſity of encouraging the queen by his own example, made him ſupport the loſs of me with heroiſm; at leaſt he could command appearances: but this ſurpriſe expoſed his ſenſibility.

He preſſed me to his boſom, and laviſhed on me the moſt endearing appellations. I felt his tears run down his cheeks and mingle with mine. He ſeemed to draw his tranſports from my heart.

My

My mother, who was naturally mild and tender, abandoned herſelf without reſerve to the emotions of her ſoul. I was her dear ſon, the object of all her wiſhes and all her ſorrows; I reſtored her to life, and ſhe was offering a ſacrifice to the gods; too ſmall an acknowledgement for the miracle they had wrought in my favour! She had languiſhed in the moſt gloomy deſpair, and was going to die contented in my arms.

"You would not believe me, "ſaid ſhe to my father: I told "you he would return. But, a- "las! though fortune has crowned "my

" my hopes, I almoſt diſtruſt the
" evidence of my ſenſes! Is this
" indeed my dear Iphis whom I
" hold in my arms?"

Clidemus, equally moved with herſelf, was not ſatisfied with careſſes, and, in the exceſs of his tranſport, cried out, (ſeeing the croud that ſurrounded us, who were melted at this ſcene,) " My
" people, behold your prince, and
" enjoy his preſence. How your
" zeal flatters me! Believe me
" that he is as much affected by
" it as myſelf. Watch over him
" with tenderneſs, and let treaſon
" tremble and return to the infer-
" nal abodes. The gods are our
" protectors:

" protectors: let us go and return
" them thanks."

We proceeded to the temple of Jupiter, amidſt the acclamations of the Cnidians, and it was with difficulty that we forced our paſſage through the croud. The ſtreets, windows, and tops of the houſes, were lined with inhabitants, who were eager to ſee me.

In the firſt ardour with which parental tenderneſs had inſpired me, being tranſported, as it were, beyond myſelf, I experienced only a ſweet intoxication; but I ſoon found that my heart ſtill required another bleſſing, without which my

my happineſs was incomplete. I perceived, with ſorrow, that Theone was the only perſon of the whole court that did not make her appearance: it ſeemed to me impoſſible that ſhe ſhould be ignorant of an event ſpread about with ſo much noiſe. I was at a loſs to account for her abſence; I who knew her ſoul, and waited for the happineſs of reading its emotions in her eyes.

As ſoon as we went out of the temple, paying no attention to the multitude of queſtions with which I was overwhelmed, and unable longer to ſupport the diſtreſſing agitation I was in, I timidly aſked the

the queen why Theone was not in her train.

" Ah ! my ſon, (ſaid ſhe in a " low voice, and preſſing my " hand,) what hopes do you give " me ! Is it poſſible that Mez- " ronima ſhould be effaced from " your memory ? You ſpeak not " of her, and ſeem ardently to " wiſh for the amiable ſiſter of " Protas. How worthy is ſhe to " fill a heart which loves virtue ! " Happy Iphis, continued ſhe, " you know not yet to what " ſnares, to what monſters, to " what horrors, you had expoſed " yourſelf."

" Pardon

"Pardon me, madam, (re-
"plied I, interrupting her,) I
"know it all." I then briefly re-
lated the wonders of the Palace
of Silence.

"Well! (ſaid ſhe, tranſported
"with the recital of ſo many pro-
"digies, and with the pleaſure of
"finding me again, in ſuch a diſ-
"poſition as ſhe particularly wiſh-
"ed for,) come then and com-
"pleat your happineſs, in full con-
"fidence of enjoying it. A per-
"ſon, who immediately recol-
"lected you, ran to tell us of your
"return. At this news the too
"tender Theone ſwooned. I have
"left

" left her in the arms of my wo-
" men, to come and throw my-
" self into yours, and given or-
" ders that she should be desired
" to wait for me."

This last instance of Theone's love moved me even to tears. " She
" has ever imagined you seduced
" by Mezronima, resumed the
" queen: come and undeceive
" her. How happy it will make
" me to unite you!"

The effusions of my mother's heart excited, in mine, all the transports of affection and gratitude; and I was still uttering some confused expressions of it, in bro-

ken

ken words, when we entered the palace.

Clidemus, interrupted by the acclamations of the people and the eagerneſs of the courtiers, had not been able to join in our converſation; he therefore deſired to be ſome moments in private with us, to enjoy the happineſs of my return undiſturbed, and to enquire what had happened to me ſince our ſeparation.

I would gladly have deferred a relation which would longer deprive me of an interview with Theone; but, finding it impoſſible to avoid it, I made haſte to

give my father an account of the wonders of which I had been the object or witneſs. I ſpoke ſo feelingly in praiſe of Menocles, that, pleaſed to find me undeceived with regard to the falſe opinion I had conceived of him, he ordered him to be called.

"Come, ſaid he to him, and "receive the embraces of a prince "who does juſtice to your cha-"racter." I embraced him with ſincerity; and, after I had atoned for my former prejudices againſt him by the moſt convincing declarations, we ſoon reſumed that unreſerved confidence in each other which characteriſes genuine friend-

ſhip,

ſhip, and lays the foundation for the happineſs it affords.

I reſumed my ſtory in his preſence. He bluſhed when I mentioned his paſſion for Theone. "Dear Menocles, (ſaid I when I "perceived it,) your wiſhes are "partly granted; you have deſired "either to gain her affections, or "to ſee me united to her. Love "yields the empire over your ſoul "to philoſophy, and deſires to "fill mine with the flames with "which you have burned. If "Theone's prejudice in my fa-"vour had been removed, and ſhe "had preferred you to me, though "death would be the conſequence,

" I ſhould follow your example,
" by ſacrificing my happineſs to
" her whom I adore. Generous
" friend! compleat your work and
" that of Cupid; ſecond the tender
" Iphis, and perſuade the king to
" confirm the union of two hearts
" deſtined for each other."

I then haſted to throw myſelf at the feet of Clidemus, and ſo ſtrikingly repreſented the ardour and purity of my ſentiments, the virtues and charms of Theone, and the decrees of heaven ſignified by ſo many ſupernatural events, that, with the concurrence of the queen and Menocles, I obtained his conſent to conclude the mar-

riage

riage as ſoon as Doris ſhould be relieved from the troubles occaſioned by Polycrates and Protas. Still more moved and animated, by this promiſe, I continued my narration with reluctance.

My father was ſtruck with aſtoniſhment when I laid open the dark perfidy of old Softrates. I did not forget the letter he wrote to his ſon when the conſpiracy firſt broke out. The king reſolved to puniſh him immediately, and gave orders that he ſhould be introduced into his cloſet.

That courtier thought himſelf at the pinnacle of favour when he

found himſelf admitted to ſhare in our converſation. He had already prepared his countenance, and artfully put on looks of tenderneſs and joy. He began by congratulating his ſovereign, with rapture, on my happy return.

" Traitor! (ſaid the king to " him in a threatening tone,) do " you purpoſe any longer to abuſe " my confidence? I know, at " laſt, the ſprings of your ambi- " tion. Speak, my ſon, (he ad- " ded, turning to me,) and con- " found the audacity of an un- " grateful, rebellious, and perfi- " dious ſubject, who would have " been at the feet of Protas if he

" could

" could have placed the crown on
" his head, and yet dares approach
" me with homage, as if he had
" preſerved his allegiance."

Soſtrates, aware that no one could convict him of treaſon, as he had not left any traces of his deſigns, ſoon recovered from his confuſion, and would have juſtified himſelf at the expence of Menocles, whom he accuſed of being his ſecret enemy.

This new impoſition enraged me ſtill more. I interrupted and reproached him for his artifices and criminal deſigns, and concluded by repeating, word for word,

that fatal letter, which he ſuppoſed was annihilated.

This laſt ſtroke confounded him. Without reflecting by what means I came to the knowledge of it, he humbled himſelf in the moſt abject manner, and even ſhed tears, to move the king's clemency.

" Go, ſaid that humane mo-
" narch; I have pity on your
" age, and remember your paſt
" ſervices; but I cannot endure
" your preſence. I muſt at leaſt
" baniſh from Doris ſuch as would
" tear it in pieces by faction.
" Quit my dominions, and never
" more

" more appear in them." The old man, covered with confuſion, returned him thanks, promiſed to obey, and withdrew.

After this act of juſtice, I reſumed my ſtory, by order of my father. The character of Hegedippa only inſpired him with cold contempt. " She is ſufficiently " diſgraced by being known (ſaid " he, interrupting me): I think " her beneath any other revenge. " Thoſe, who are ſeduced by the " artifices of ambitious women, " are more to blame than the " women themſelves. They de- " rive all their power from our " weakneſs."

I took care not to recount exactly, at that time, all which the cabinet of oracles had revealed to me. My desire of seeing Theone permitted me only to give such details as might be interesting to the king, or make him favour my passion. He himself perceived that the agitation I was in confused my mind.

From the moment when I was indulged with the prospect of my approaching felicity it was with difficulty that I could attend to any other idea. I burned with impatience to convey, into the soul of Theone, those transports

of

of love and joy with which I was intoxicated.

I looked at my mother with a tender anxiety; which ſhe interpreted as a petition to follow her in queſt of Theone. She hinted to Clidemus, ſmiling, that I had been too long detained, conſidering the violence of my paſſion.

"I will confine you no longer, "ſaid he kindly to me: go and "ſee Theone. Her hand depends "on her heart: it muſt be your "care to merit them both."

At theſe words, my mother went out, leaning on my arm, and

continued to mortify me by talking of indifferent ſubjects: but my agitation made me anſwer her at random.

A certain dread was mingled with my impatience, and an uncommon oppreſſion weakened me, in proportion as I approached the queen's apartment. "What! "ſaid ſhe, do you tremble? "Where is your uſual vivacity? "I thought you would fly to the "feet of Theone; but I now "queſtion whether you will be "able to conduct me to her."

"Ah! madam, (cried I, ſcarce "able to ſpeak,) what a moment

"is

" is this! I never felt for Mez-
" ronima any thing which reſem-
" bles what I now experience.
" I had only wild tranſports for
" her, which did not flow from
" my heart: yet I reproach my-
" ſelf with this firſt wandering,
" as an injury offered to Theone,
" which renders me leſs worthy
" of her. How ſhall I be ac-
" quitted for not having always
" adored her? Will the reſpect,
" admiration, and love, which
" ſhe inſpires, ſufficiently atone
" for the moments thrown away
" in ſighs for her rival?"

" Take courage, replied the
" queen: ſhe loved you at a time
" when

" when you were incapable of re-
" quiting her affection, and will
" you pleaſe her leſs now you be-
" tray ſenſibility ?"

The door was then opened, and the firſt object I looked for, and ſaw, was Theone. I will not attempt to expreſs what tumult, what emotion, what intoxication, the ſight of her conveyed into my ſoul and my ſenſes. She came forward a few ſteps to meet us, with a timid air and hanging down her head. " Approach, ſaid the
" queen to her, and receive, with
" my approbation, the moſt ten-
" der lover and huſband."

I fell

I fell at her feet. " Theone ! " (cried I, ſeizing one of her " hands, which ſhe did not with- " draw, and bathing it with tears,) " my dear Theone ! I ſee you a- " gain . . I adore you . . " I die" . .

A violent emotion, which I felt all over me, deprived me of utterance. All the faculties of my ſoul ſeemed to center in my eyes; which I fixed on Theone with ſo much ardour, that ſhe appeared to partake in my emotion. I ſaw in hers that ſweet expreſſion which love produces, and innocence cannot diſſemble.

Her

Her languiſhing attempts to withdraw her hand, on which I preſſed my burning lips, gave me an opportunity to ſeize the other. I continued to hold them, and felt a ſlight effort to preſs mine, which her reflection too haſtily checked. Great gods! how expreſſive was our ſilence! how eloquent were our looks! what pleaſure did our hearts reciprocally communicate!

Theone firſt ſpoke, and, gently withdrawing from my tranſports, when ſhe had recovered herſelf, exclaimed, "What do I hear and "ſee? Iphis at my feet! Iphis "ſwearing

" ſwearing that he loves me!
" what a ſight for me! Ah!
" madam, (added ſhe, addreſſing
" herſelf to the queen,) is not
" this ſome illuſion which de-
" ceives me?"

" No, replied my mother: my
" preſence, my joy, and what I
" have already told you, all con-
" firm the ſincerity of the vows
" of Iphis."

" What! (ſaid Theone, turn-
" ing to me,) does not your heart
" miſtake? Mezronima" . .

" Stop, ſaid I, haſtily, and do
" not utter a name which is hate-
" ful

" ful to me: forbear to awake a
" remembrance which diſhonours
" me. Divine Theone, miſtake
" not, yourſelf, the ſentiments
" you have inſpired: would you
" confound them with the wan-
" derings of a dream, which my
" reaſon diſavows when awake?
" No, Theone, no: I have ne-
" ver loved but you. The arti-
" fices of an ambitious woman
" did, for a ſhort time, ſeduce my
" imprudent youth; but it was
" not love which ſhe inſpired.
" Ah! Theone, ſhame then loſt
" its bluſh!"

The queen interrupted me, to deſcant on the wonderful means by

by which heaven had preſerved us for each other. " Love re-
" ſtores my ſon to wiſdom, (ſaid
" ſhe, looking at Theone,) and
" wiſdom ſurrenders you to love.
" Let Hymen unite you : I have
" wiſhed it ; Clidemus conſents ;
" Iphis knows that he is dear to
" you ; the gods themſelves have
" revealed it. Complete his hap-
" pineſs by confirming it."

Theone, a little diſconcerted that the ſecrets of her heart were already known to me, could not immediately look at me without confuſion : but, with an openneſs equal to her ſenſibility, ſhe was unacquainted with that perfidious art which conducts a lover, by methodical

thodical gradations, to the knowledge of his happineſs; an art which, by turns, gives hope and forbids it; which affects reſiſtance or ſurprize, and pretends to oppoſe, merely to add dignity to a defeat.

" Yes, prince, (ſaid ſhe to me,)
" the gods have not betrayed me,
" if they have made you feel my
" love by revealing it. I own I
" love you. Is it known only to
" the gods? From whom has
" my grief concealed it? Even
" theſe walls, if walls could ſpeak,
" would ſtill echo the cries and
" complaints of unhappy Theone,
" who was prepared for death,

" and

" and had thrown off every diſ-
" guiſe."

" Ah! Theone, (cried I again,
" throwing myſelf at her feet,)
" ſpare my heart; it cannot ſup-
" port ſo many tranſports. It is,
" then, true that you love me!
" your own words confirm it!
" What am I ſaying? . . .
" Diſſemble not . . . Let
" me expire with pleaſure . .
" Say again that I am dear to you
" . . . You cannot add to my
" love. Great as it is, it did not
" expect ſuch a reward. It pe-
" netrates, it fills, my ſoul; and
" ſilences even my gratitude and
" pride . . . I feel that I love
" you,

" you, and that is all which I
" feel!"

My mother, affected by ſo tender a ſcene, embraced us by turns; and we expreſſed our thanks in ſuch incoherent terms, as prove, ſtronger than eloquence can prove, how highly we prize a favour.

" You are ſenſible, ſaid ſhe to
" us, that your nuptials cannot be
" celebrated before the troops are
" on their march againſt Poly-
" crates: they are ready to open
" the compaign. Beſides, we
" muſt reduce Protas: the troops
" which are employed to ſurround
" the temple, where he has taken
" refuge,

" refuge, will be wanted for o-
" ther ſervices."

" The connection we are ma-
" king with his ſiſter, replied I,
" will oblige us to take care of
" him."

" Without doubt, replied the
" queen; but theſe cautions de-
" fer your union: for how can
" we prepare, at the ſame time,
" for rejoicings and for war?"

" Alas! madam, interrupted
" Theone, how it afflicts me, in
" the midſt of theſe honours, to
" have cauſe to bluſh for the
" crimes of my family! How
" much

" much am I indebted to you if
" you pardon them! Perhaps, if
" I were to ſee my brother, I
" ſhould prevail on him to ſubmit.
" The loſs of his liberty is too
" gentle a puniſhment for him to
" refuſe to undergo. I will con-
" vince him that he has no re-
" ſource but in the king's cle-
" mency, and that he is ruined if
" he does not accept it."

The queen inſtantly approved this idea: but, when I called to mind, with horror, the moment when I ſaw him ruſhing on Theone with his poniard, I eagerly rejected a ſcheme which might again expoſe her to his barba-

rity.

rity. However, ſhe inſiſted on it, and was ſeconded by the queen, who propoſed ſuch precautions as were ſufficient to baniſh my fears.

I did not give up the point but on the condition of being preſent at the interview. Theone then caught the ſame alarms for me which I had conceived for her. At length we reſolved to be both of us preſent, and (in order to eſcape a ſurprize) to place a barrier between him and us, as if for his own ſecurity, on a ſuppoſition that he would come to terms with us, and that the king would ſubmit to ſuch a ſituation as that of an incenſed ſovereign in parley with

a rebellious subject. My mother undertook the charge of this business, to bring the civil broils, which still troubled Cnidus, to a speedy conclusion; and gave us to understand that it was time for me to make my appearance at court, and that she was going to allow the courtiers access to her apartment.

Menocles arrived one of the first; and, the crowd presently increasing, we were under less restraint. The contented air of Thecne added to her charms, and I enjoyed a genuine and lasting pleasure in beholding her. Menocles congratulated us in a calm and respectful

reſpectful manner. I was afraid the ſight of our happineſs would have diminiſhed his, and this idea made me uneaſy. He perceived ſome ſigns of it, and aſked me the reaſon. I tenderly owned the occaſion of it; but he aſſured me that his philoſophy had triumphed over his paſſion for Theone; that admiration had given birth to it, and extinguiſhed it; in a word, that he beheld our union with the joy of a friend and the coldneſs of indifference.

I loaded him with encomiums and careſſes, and experienced additional ſatisfaction in giving myſelf up to my paſſion, when I

found it was not at the expence of his repoſe.

The reception I gave to my old favourites ſignalized my gratitude to Harpocrates, and my deſire to pleaſe Theone, by making a diſtinction between real merit and the laboured appearance of it. How many hearts had I unveiled in the Palace of Silence, which imagined they could ſtill impoſe on me, and ſhrunk at the coldneſs of my indifference! I expreſſed a general kindneſs for all my courtiers, favour to ſome, and a zealous attachment to others, according to the information I had received from the walls of ſteel.

This

This conduct ſucceeded. By ridding myſelf of the moſt importunate, and encouraging the worthy, they divided of themſelves, as gold is ſeparated from its alloy in the crucible. I found that men naturally make alliances; that vice ſometimes brings them together; but that virtue alone unites them."

Some days were paſſed in magnificent rejoicings. The nobles all vied with each other, who ſhould celebrate my return with the greateſt ſplendor. Amidſt the pleaſures which ſurrounded me, I was ſenſible of no other than that of loving, and being beloved by, The-

one. The beauties of her mind were an eternal ſubject of admiration. I was allowed frequent interviews with her, and every interview preſented me with new motives for adoration.

"But, by what miracle (I "would ſometimes ſay to her) "have I been able to touch your "heart, at a time when my wan-"derings, my errors, my weak-"neſſes, the imperfections, the "irregularities, of impetuous "youth, ought to have warned "you againſt a prepoſſeſſion which "has been the ſource of ſo much "happineſs to me?"

"I

"I divined your temper, anſ-
" wered ſhe ingenuouſly: I knew
" you better than you knew your-
" ſelf. All your ſentiments were
" pure, and you only wanted re-
" flection, to direct you in the ob-
" jects of your purſuit. All your
" paſſions were lively, but deli-
" cate; and you needed but power
" to reſiſt thoſe of others who led
" you aſtray. All your ideas
" were lofty and ſublime: they
" needed only order and conſide-
" ration. A ſoul which is noble,
" elevated, and formed for hero-
" iſm; a mind juſt and penetra-
" ting; a temper mild, even, and
" ſolid, recommended by a figure

" at once ſtriking and majeſtic ;
" are a ſufficient vindication of
" my paſſion and diſcernment."

I ſhall hardly be excuſed for repeating an eulogium which my modeſty ought to have ſuppreſſed ; but how did it charm in the mouth of the adorable miſtreſs of my heart ! She without doubt painted what I ought to have been, and not what I was : her imagination lent my name to the portrait ſhe had embelliſhed, and I found in it a model which I have ever attempted to imitate in vain.

Theone's, ſenſe and my own experience taught me to hear flattery

tery without danger, and cenſure without hatred. All the poets of Cnidus made me the ſubject of their works: victories which I never won, virtues which they never diſcovered, and actions which pleaſed their ſeveral fancies, were attributed to me, in profuſion, by their muſes. One alone, among them, who was anonymous, ventured to addreſs me in verſes dictated by the voice of wiſdom, the liberty of a philoſopher, and the zeal of a citizen; indulging himſelf in inſtructions rather than praiſes, in reflections rather than hyperboles, and in truths rather than ornaments. Almoſt all the courtiers were immediately up in arms

againſt ſuch daring inſolence: he ought, in their opinions, to have been diſcovered and puniſhed: but I ſearched him out and rewarded him.

During this diſſipation and rejoicing, Clidemus was employed in re-eſtabliſhing peace in his dominions. Many of his factious ſubjects waited to know the fate of Protas, before they either deſerted his cauſe, or openly eſpouſed it. That obſtinate rebel's audacity was not diminiſhed by my return; an event which, by depriving him of hope, rendered him ſtill more reſolute. Notwithſtanding, he accepted the interview which the king

king allowed to be propoſed to him; but it was with the haughtineſs of a conqueror.

The place, day, hour, and terms, were fixed. I repaired to the ſpot, along with Theone, followed by the eſcort agreed on. The people ran there in crouds. I arrived firſt at the barrier. Mezronima alſo preſently made her appearance. That prieſteſs, vain of her beauty, rank, and addreſs, preſumed ſhe could ſtill impoſe on and ſeduce me.

She began to ſpeak, by complaining, with dignity, of the ſuſpicions with which her enemies

had daringly blackened her character. She repreſented my former love for her, her reſiſtance, and the return ſhe at length made to my paſſion. She tenderly reproached me with my inconſtancy; painted the deſpair into which the loſs of me had plunged her; inſiſted much on her title to the crown, which my ſuppoſed death had ſupported; owned that Protas, more ambitious than faithful, had made an ill uſe of her confidence and name, to foment a rebellion, for which ſhe was not reſponſible; proteſted that ſhe only deſired to inſure the ſucceſſion after Clidemus; urged me to puniſh the traitor who held her in captivity,

at

at the ſame time priding herſelf on his love; yielded up my heart to Theone with reluctance; put on looks which aſked for it back again; and employed all the artifices of which ſhe was capable.

Theone, having no point to ſettle with her, had withdrawn, and waited, with uneaſineſs, the reſult of an interview which ſhe thought was to be dreaded; but my calmneſs removed her apprehenſions.

I anſwered Mezronima by informing her, that, in the Palace of Silence, I had been favoured with the power and opportunity of

ſearching

ſearching into the heart: that the inmoſt receſſes of hers had been laid open to me: that ſome reſpect was due to her ſex and rank; but that ſhe might renounce every other pretenſion. Fury then took place of the eloquence of ſentiment; ſhe beſtowed on me the moſt odious names, and uttered the moſt fatal menaces; when Protas advanced towards us.

"The miracle which reſtored
"you to light, ſaid he to me, re-
"quired that I ſhould examine it,
"at leaſt, before I believed it.
"I did not think it improbable
"that an impoſtor, reſembling
"yourſelf, and ſupported by Cli-
"demus,

" demus, might have perſonated
" you. But I will not uſe the
" mean artifice of diſowning you:
" I ſee that you are Iphis, and my
" hatred confirms it. What have
" you to ſay to me?"

This ſhameleſs audacity produced in me ſome emotions of anger; but the preſence of Theone, (perhaps the remembrance of our former friendſhip,) and the fear of breaking off the conference, and of being at laſt obliged to treat him with rigour, checked my reſentment. " Let us be ſilent, ſaid
" I to him, on the motives for ha-
" tred which may ſubſiſt between
" us. I am come to make you

" offers

" offers of reconciliation, on eaſy
" terms, which you are in no con-
" dition to refuſe. Without
" troops, without friends, with
" Mezronima alone, can you hope
" to accompliſh ſchemes as raſh
" as they are unjuſt? Diſplay
" elſewhere a courage which may
" prove fatal to your country, or
" ſuffer it to be curbed."

Theone reinforced what I ſaid by every powerful perſuaſion which duty, reaſon, neceſſity, and the ties of blood could ſuggeſt.

" How much am I indebted,
" anſwered he ironically, to the
" cares of a ſiſter, who is come

" to

" to offer me ſlavery or flight;
" who prefers the ſafety of a ty-
" rant to the honour of her fa-
" mily; who betrays her country
" itſelf, to ſupport a foreign power
" in it; and vouchſafes to invite
" a free and generous citizen to
" crouch under the laws of a man
" too vile to be cheriſhed in the
" boſom of Sparta!"

" Stop! cried I, interrupting
" him: it is too much to abuſe
" my love for Theone and my
" moderation. Were it not for
" the unhappy tie, which unites
" you to her, Clidemus would ere
" now have convinced you that
" he has a legal authority here,

" conferred

" conferred on him by the ſuf-
" frages of your whole nation;
" that Greece, to whom it owes
" its origin, could not make it a
" more acceptable preſent than
" that of a king which ſhe had
" formed; and that that monarch
" is able, as well as authorized,
" to cut off the head of a crimi-
" nal."

" Young man, (replied he with
" diſdain,) do you think I am to
" be terrified by your menaces?
" You know not the reſources of
" true courage. I was not born
" to obey you; and do you, who
" are ſcarce my equal, talk to me
" in the language of a maſter?"

Mezronima,

Mezronima, (who was transported by her own rage,) ſtill more animated by the impetuoſity of Protas, and imagining, ſince he ventured to defy me, that he had ſome ſecret means of ſupporting his party, applauded his reſolutions; promiſed ſhe would copy his example; endeavoured to ſtir up the people; declared that Venus would avenge her prieſteſs on all thoſe who refuſed to take up arms at her call; invoked the manes of her anceſtors; and lifted up her veil, the more eaſily to find protectors.

Protas waited a little to ſee the effects of her outcries and charms; but,

but, finding no motion made to favour his views, "Forbear, ma-
"dam, (ſaid he to her, with a
"fierce look,) forbear to expect
"any fidelity, any zeal, from a
"croud of ſlaves, who languiſh
"under the weight of their chains.
"Preſumptuous Iphis, (continued
"he,) Protas has, doubtleſs, in
"your opinion, no choice but
"that of exile or impriſonment,
"deſtitute as he is of refuge and
"ſupport. I aimed at the ſcepter
"and your life, but muſt ſurren-
"der Mezronima and myſelf to
"you. There! (ſaid he, plun-
"ging a poniard into the heart of
"that unfortunate lady, and im-
"mediately after into his own,)
"ſee

" ſee how ſouls like ours make
" their ſubmiſſion!"

Theone ſcreamed out and ran to hold her brother's arm; but he had already expired. I forced her away from the ſhocking ſpectacle, and brought her back to the palace, after giving the orders neceſſary in ſuch circumſtances.

Cupid, who had been ſo long abſent from the temple of his mother, made his appearance there again. A bright cloud, which deſcended on the altar, announced the preſence of the charming god, who had been almoſt forgotten. His return ſpread joy among the people

people of Cnidus, and was considered by them as a certain presage of his favours; which they soon enjoyed in the bosom of peace.

Polycrates, having reached the goal of his happiness and life, perished by the treachery of Orœtes, satrap of Persia and governor of Sardis. Samos, in changing its tyrant, changed its schemes. The army which threatened the colonies of Greece received different orders. Tranquillity being restored to the Dorians, by the care of Clidemus, they confined their attention to the progress of virtue and of the arts and sciences. Aristagoras

riſtagoras continued their ally, and Cnidus recovered its ſplendor. Theone, having paid the tribute of tears for the death of her brother, accepted my hand. Hegedippa retired from court. Menocles was my Mentor and friend; and I united, in my heart, the repoſe of gentle manners, the tranſports of genuine love, a taſte for innocent pleaſures, the delights of friendſhip, and the deſire of meriting the eſteem of my fellow-citizens and of poſterity.

THE END.

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